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Jerusalem man shot outside Bethlehem store

A MANHUNT was under way last night for a terrorist who shot and wounded a Jewish man on the outskirts of Bethlehem. Jerusalem resident Re'em Azulai, 33, was listed in fair condition at Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Karem with bullet wounds to the jaw and hand.

ON LEVY and **HERB KEINON**
closed military zone after the shooting. The shooting occurred at about 5:30 p.m., when the victim, wearing a kippa, came out of a ceramics shop in the Palestinian sector. As he approached his car, he was shot from close range.

Yehieli, deputy head of the Gush Etzion Regional Council. Yehieli, who has called on residents of Gush Etzion and Efrat to continue driving through Bethlehem rather than on the new bypass road, said the lesson to be learned from last night's incident is not to stop driving on the road - just not to stop and shop in Bethlehem. "I don't recommend shopping in an area which is not secure," he said. Yehieli said he recommends driving through Bethlehem so that separate roads for Jews only - where Jews would be easy targets for terror attacks - are not created. "We want to keep the roads mixed," he said.

'95 inflation is 8.1%; lowest in 26 years

THE inflation rate for 1995 plummeted from the previous year's 14.5 percent to 8.1% - the lowest in 26 years - the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. "We are in a period of stable inflation," Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said, adding that he expects this year's rate to remain between 8% and 10%. December's consumer price index rose 1.2%, the bureau also announced. Shohat attributed the lower-than-expected inflation to a combination of factors, including increased imports, the high supply of housing, and the government's monetary policy.

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and **GALIT LIPKIS BECK**
responsibility for the good news. Instead, he said, "The economy and the government's policies must be seen in their totality." However, some people were skeptical about the results. "The fact that we achieved an inflation rate of only 8% in 1995 is a very positive sign, but it would have been preferable to end the year with a 10% inflation rate and a \$3 billion balance of payments deficit, instead of 8% inflation and \$4.2b. deficit," said Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper, who has staunchly opposed Frenkel's tight monetary policy and called for the devaluation of the shekel. Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said he will demand workers be fully compensated for inflation in the negotiations over the cost-of-living increment due to open next week. The increment is

to be paid to workers in February's wages. According to CBS statistics, the two major factors contributing to the overall inflation rate were the slowed increase in housing prices and the drop in fruit and vegetable prices. Housing increased by 13.7% in 1995, which contributed 3.3% - more than any other category - to the inflation rate. Housing prices increased by 23.6% in 1994, and the yearly inflation was 14.5%. Fruit and vegetable prices dived by 24.6% in 1995, after rising by 56.1% in 1994, offsetting the inflation rate by 1.5%. While prices increased in every other major category, most increases were less than in 1994. Clothing and shoe prices increased by 6% compared to 7.7%, food was up 9.3% compared to 8.7%, and health care rose by 8.3% against 15.8%. Michal Yudelman contributed to this report.

WORLD OF SPORT
COWBOYS HEAD TO SUPER BOWL
It's ALL in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

Squatters removed from Kiryat Arba apartments

HERB KEINON
BORDER policemen began moving into some 40 apartments in the Ashmoret Yitzhak neighborhood on the edge of Kiryat Arba yesterday afternoon, a few hours after they evicted dozens of squatters from the site. Hundreds of policemen and border policemen took part in a 40-minute operation to move the squatters from the homes. Some of the residents offered passive resistance. No violence was reported, and there were no arrests. "It went relatively quietly, it was certainly successful," said Alec Ron, the commander of the Samaria and Judea police district. The police evicted 26 squatters from the neighborhood. Families in another 11 units were allowed to remain. The squatters were taken from the homes to the Hebron police station for questioning. There, a Housing Ministry representative tried to find other housing in Kiryat Arba for those who moved into the apartments because they lacked adequate housing. According to Kiryat Arba activist David Wilder, the squatters can be divided into three groups: those who did not have apartments; those that had small apartments in Kiryat Arba and wanted to improve their living conditions; and those who feared that if Jews were not in the apartments, they would be given to Palestinians. Ron said that an agreement in principle was reached with the squatters in November, whereby some of the apartments would remain in the hands of the settlers, and others would be turned over to the police and - a year later - returned for use by the settlement. Ron said the squatters, at the last minute, reneged on the agreement, necessitating the evacuation. Kiryat Arba local council head Zvi Katzover, who had mediated in efforts to get the squatters to



Policemen evict a squatter from a Kiryat Arba apartment yesterday. (AP)

move out on their own, said he was angry that the evacuation took place, and that he asked the police for another day or two to try and get the squatters to leave voluntarily. Netivot Rabbi Baruch Abuhatzira was brought in to the strug-

gle, because many of those in the apartments are his followers. The evacuated apartments will be turned over for a year to the border police, which is evacuating its base in Hebron as part of the Oslo accords. Ashmoret Yitzhak, within a

few meters of Arab homes, was built by the previous Likud government, but the apartments were never put up for sale as part of this government's housing freeze in the settlements. Settlers first began squatting in the apartments in the summer of 1994.

The hands of Jacob

INFLATION, said Martin Luther, is the devil's doing. As we Israelis can testify, in terms of its destructive symptoms he was right, but in terms of inflation's causes he was wrong, since it stems from a man-made shortage of goods and an oversupply of money. Plagued by costly wars, stifled by anti-import regulations, and cursed with governments that turned the central bank into a servile printing machine, Israel was undersupplied with goods and showered with near worthless money. Much of this has changed since the launch of the 1985 economic plan: imports were cut, the public sector's growth was slowed, the defense budget was slashed, and the Bank of Israel was largely

COMMENT
AMOTZ ASA-EL
emancipated. Even so, while drastically reduced from three-digit levels, inflation remained a good 10-15 percentage points above its average elsewhere in the West. To further reduce inflation - especially against the backdrop of accelerated, demand-generating immigration - the central bank had to confront politicians hungry for added budgets and businessmen thirsty for cheap money. Faced with these, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel stood his ground - and ours - by repeatedly ignoring short-sighted, and often

self-centered, pleas to cut interest rates and to devalue the shekel. More than anything else, this determination has reduced Israel's inflation to a 26-year low. Unfortunately, this achievement might lead to hubris - not Frenkel's, but the politicians' - particularly those who later this year will decide whether to reinstate him as Israel's monetary leader for another five years. Fortunately, unlike most other public figures, Frenkel's performance is easily quantifiable and clearly impressive. If allowed to continue, he can reduce inflation further and - perhaps by Israel's 50th anniversary - complete the foreign exchange reform currently under way. It's high time.

Russian forces kill 60 Chechen rebels, free nine hostages

RUSSIAN forces yesterday stormed a village where rebels held more than 100 hostages. While fighting still raged after dark, authorities said troops had

killed 60 rebels, captured others and freed nine of the captives. Interfax and Itar-Tass news agencies said the nine hostages had been brought out of Pervomayskoye several hours after Russian troops stormed the village to end a six-day stand-off. Interfax said Russian troops had four dead and 14 wounded. "We want the terrorists punished and wiped out from the Chechen land," President Boris Yeltsin told the ITAR-Tass news agency. (News agencies) Full report, Page 5

All banks to close on Fridays as of March 1

MICHAL YUDELMAN
ALL banks will be closed on Fridays as of March 1, following an agreement reached yesterday between the Histadrut and banks. Bank workers and the Histadrut have been fighting for a five-day work week for the past eight years. Until now, the move was held up by firm opposition from Bank Leumi and the Chambers of Commerce. They proposed closing the banks on Sunday, as is the custom in other countries, and argued that closing them on Friday would obstruct business transactions. Not all the banks have officially announced the change, but Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz declared that the decision binds all the banks. Any bank which fails to complete the negotiations with its workers over the new arrangements by March 1 should know that "its workers will simply not show up to work that Friday," Peretz said.

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Greek leader Papandreou quits

ATHENS (AP) - Premier Andreas Papandreou resigned yesterday after nearly two months in hospital and opened the way for his socialist party to elect a new head of government by week's end. "This is an historic moment and a courageous act by the president and founder of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement," said Kostas Skandalides, the party's secretary general. He said Papandreou asked his party's central committee and the parliamentary group to "elect a new

US: No decision on Pollard yet

THE American Embassy in Tel Aviv last night denied a Channel 1 report that President Bill Clinton had made a final decision to not pardon convicted spy Jonathan Pollard. "The Pollard case has not reached the president's desk, and therefore he has taken no decision," read a statement issued by the embassy. The president "will consider the case when it reaches his desk." Jerusalem Post Staff Sharon: Unity gov't handed over Pollard, Page 4

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Barak: Kinneret, Jordan River waters must stay in our hands

THE waters of Lake Kinneret and the Jordan River must stay in Israeli hands under any peace agreement, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

"The Syrians already know the waters of the Jordan and Kinneret will remain under Israeli use, but there are also sources which are not under our control," Barak was quoted as saying.

Water is one of the subjects that has been raised during the talks, but only as an initial exploration of the issues, without substantive discussion, Barak said.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir, meanwhile, censured the "professional pessimists and various doomsayers," in an apparent attack on Barak and Minister Yossi Beilin, who expressed pessimism over the re-

sults of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks in Damascus.

"Jewish history is full of missed opportunities - in periods when the Jews were strong and failed in their attempt to translate these assets into true long-term assets. This time we must not miss this opportunity created for us to negotiate with the Syrians," Savir said in a statement.

In an interview with Channel 1, Beilin said he believes a settlement with the Syrians would be put off until next year.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres yesterday repeated his vision of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East by the year 2000 and said the negotiations with Syria are proceeding well.

"We're on the right path," Peres told the Labor Knesset fac-

tion. "The Labor Party's aim - without gossip, speculation, and skepticism - is to bring about a comprehensive peace in the Middle East by the end of the century." He stressed he would "not hold a stopwatch in my hand" during the negotiations and said the negotiations could not be linked to the Knesset elections.

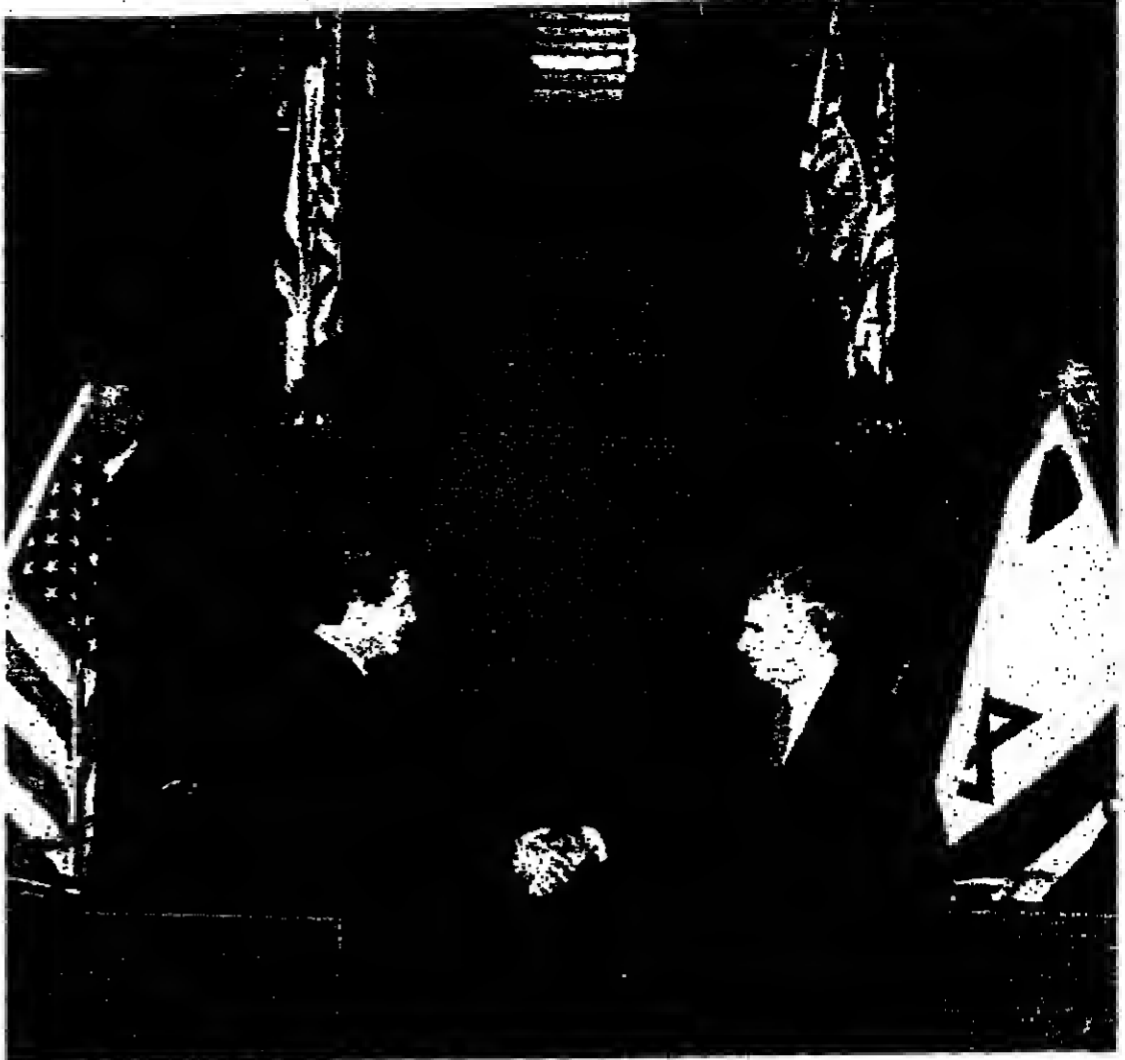
Peres told the faction that Christopher returned from Damascus with some agreements: "An agreement by all of us to make an effort to turn the peace into a comprehensive peace - not just with Syria, but with other countries - [and an agreement] on some economic principles.

"It's the first time interest has been seen in Syria in taking the economic issues seriously. We will cautiously begin to discuss

matters related to the security and water arrangements. I believe the next round of talks at Wye Plantation will be fruitful," Peres said, adding that Israel and the US are working to establish an international alignment to promote peace.

Syria's official daily *Al-Baath* accused Israeli officials of launching a "coordinated campaign aimed at distorting Syria's position" at the talks after US officials spoke about progress in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Reuters reported.

"The Israeli campaign is an attempt to put new obstacles in the way of any possible progress to push the peace process forward," the paper said. It said Damascus had offered Israel full peace in return for full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian lands, while Israel has given no tangible offer.



Prime Minister Shimon Peres greets US Vice President Al Gore on his arrival yesterday. (AP)

Bomb wounds SLA man

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

A SOUTH Lebanese Army soldier was wounded in a roadside bombing in the western sector of the security zone yesterday.

Syria Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, meanwhile, drove from Damascus to Beirut to brief President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri on US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's latest peace shuttle.

He later told a news conference of "Syria's seriousness in participating with the US to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region."

Channel 1 reported that Shara raised the question of Lebanese government intervention with the

Hizbullah in order to restrain its forces in southern Lebanon.

SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad said in an interview published yesterday that Israel has assured him that an agreement with Lebanon will include provisions to protect his men.

"These include the abrogation of all judicial proceedings and rulings against the inhabitants of the security zone and SLA elements," he told Beirut's independent *An-Nahar*. It said the interview was conducted before a Beirut military magistrate issued a summons to Lahad Saturday to answer charges of high treason.

Batsheva Tsur contributed to this report.

Gazit: Transition to PA control has been lucky

LIAT COLLINS

THE handover to the Palestinian Authority has been surprisingly smooth, but future terror attacks can be expected, former OC Intelligence Shlomo Gazit told the Labor Knesset faction yesterday, in a review of the implementation of Oslo 2.

"We've been lucky because [although] there have been attacks, they have resulted in light injuries," Gazit said. But he warned that attacks are likely to continue and "statistically, not all will end [this way]."

Gazit said the easy transition

could in part be explained by the feeling of euphoria among the Palestinians. He called Yasser Arafat their "only unchallenged, accepted leader."

Although the Palestinians are making an effort to stop terror, they are unlikely to answer Israel's calls to hand over murder suspects and are thus violating agreements, Gazit said.

Regarding the elections, scheduled for Saturday, Gazit said the expected high turnout will be a slap in the face for Hamas, which has called for a boycott.

Gore envisions peace, security

BATSHEVA TSUR

US Vice President Al Gore arrived from Egypt yesterday evening with a message of hope for peace and a promise of security for Israel.

The peoples of the Middle East "hear the people of Israel sing in one resounding voice. Our hope is not yet lost," Gore said, quoting from the national anthem in Hebrew, at the airport welcoming ceremony. "They see here - that peace and understanding are on the march."

He added that the US is determined to support the peace efforts and Israel. "We'll stand with you. We'll not be daunted as together we build a world dedicated to peace."

Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who greeted Gore, said that Israel's purpose is "to put an end once and for all to a state of war

and to replace it with peace and prosperity throughout the region. Peace is a free choice, a moral preference for us."

"The vice president is here to express the depth of the US commitment to the security of Israel," Gore's spokeswoman Peggy Wilhide told *The Jerusalem Post* last night. But she refused to elaborate on specific issues which would be raised.

Wilhide added that Gore also would like to refresh his working ties with Peres and get to know Foreign Minister Ehad Barak.

The working visit will start early this morning when Gore confers with Peres at the Prime Minister's Office. Later, he will meet with Barak. A scheduled meeting with Likud leader Benjamin Ne-

anyahu was called off, apparently because Gore was able to spare only 10 minutes, Israel Radio reported.

Gore began his two-day visit, his second since assuming office, with a private call on Leah Rabin. He will visit the grave of Yitzhak Rabin today.

Stringent security measures are being enforced in the capital for the visit, and Jerusalemites can expect traffic hold-ups today, as roads are closed from time to time. Mt. Herzl will be closed to the public as of 7 a.m.

Before returning to Washington, Gore will meet with PA head Yasser Arafat in Jericho, as well as with Palestinian businessmen, Wilhide said.

Last night, Peres hosted a festive dinner in Gore's honor at the Knesset.

Dutch PM to sign economic accords in Jerusalem

HOLLAND and Israel will today sign joint economic agreements when Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok meets with Prime Minister Shimon Peres in Jerusalem. Kok, accompanied by his foreign minister, Hans van Mierlo, arrived here yesterday from Jordan and Syria for a working visit.

Batsheva Tsur

Palestinians in Ashkelon Prison declare hunger strike

BILL HUTMAN

PALESTINIAN inmates at Ashkelon Prison yesterday declared a hunger strike, in solidarity with the 28 female Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike for a week at Sharon Prison.

The female prisoners are demanding five of their comrades be set free. The government refuses to release them because they have killed Jews in terror attacks. The prisoners, who say they will only leave the prison as a group, have barricaded themselves into two cells at the prison.

Prisons Authority spokesman Moshe Malul said the female prisoners had food and water in their cells, and were seen eating and drinking by the prison staff.

Palestinian prisoners at Ashkelon Prison were also eating food they had in their cells, although they refused prison meals, according to Malul.

"In normal circumstances, 24 hours after a prisoner has declared a hunger strike, we remove the food from their cell to prevent them from trying to get publicity for a hunger strike they are really not keeping," Malul said.

However, in the case of the Palestinian inmates, prison officials are waiting before removing food from the cells, "because of the sensitivity of the situation," he said.

Meanwhile, 115 Palestinian prisoners were freed yesterday in a final round of releases before Palestinian elections scheduled for Saturday. Most of them were convicted of common crimes, rather than security violations, said Malul.

The releases brought to 1,200 the number of Palestinians freed over the past five days.

Israeli Arabs to guard PA poll in capital

BILL HUTMAN

UNARMED Israeli Arab guards, instead of policemen, are to be stationed at the eastern Jerusalem post offices used as polling stations, so as not to provoke the Palestinian voters on Saturday.

Jerusalem police have agreed to "keep their distance" from the five post offices where Palestinian Jerusalemites will vote, security sources said.

Yesterday, senior police, the General Security Service, and IDF officials met to finalize plans for securing the elections.

"We understand the sensitivity which surround the voting to Jerusalem," one source said.

The police and Postal Authority have already contracted a security company that employs Israeli Arab guards to help with crowd control and other safety matters at the post offices.

The major concern is for unrest provoked by Jewish extremists, according to the sources.

Right-wing groups plan protests in the capital Saturday, culminating in a large rally, against Jerusalemites being allowed to participate in the election. Police will not allow the protesters near the post offices being used for the elections, even though the offices are officially open to the general public, the sources said.

"The roads around the post offices will be closed to traffic, and large police contingents stationed to keep protesters far away," a source said.

Some 2,000 policemen from districts all over the country are to be brought to the capital over the weekend, according to the sources.

Meanwhile, posters aimed at scaring Jerusalem Palestinians away from participating in the upcoming election, carrying the Likud symbol, were discovered this morning in eastern Jerusalem. The posters warned Jerusalem Palestinians that if they voted, they would lose their Israeli residency IDs and social benefits.

Right-wing groups plan protests in the capital Saturday, culminating in a large rally, against Jerusalemites being allowed to participate in the election.

A police spokeswoman said the posters were discovered near the American Colony hotel.

Dani Danon, a Young Likud candidate in whose name the poster was signed, said, "This is only the beginning of the struggle. We will do all we can to disrupt the elections in eastern Jerusalem that endanger the status of the capital."

Two years have passed since our beloved daughter

SHARON DUNSKY ז"ל

was taken from us

We will visit her grave at the Kiryat Shaul cemetery, Har Tamir section, on Friday, January 19, 1996, at 2 p.m.

The family

Bar Ilan University, The Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, The Chemistry Department extends its condolences to Prof. Kenneth Kay and his family on the passing of his

FATHER

Prof. Abraham Nudelman, Head of the Chemistry Department, lecturers and staff

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LEON SHALIT

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Arrival: El Al flight 014. The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, January 16, 1996 at 2 p.m. at the Shagar funeral parlor, 26 Rehov Shagar, Jerusalem.

Shiva in Israel this evening only at the Marans residence, 623/11 Rehov Nerot Shabbat, Ramot Alef, Jerusalem.

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We mourn the passing of our good friend

ISRAEL SADAN ז"ל

and extend our deepest sympathy to the family. His memory will live in our hearts forever.

Families: Lois and Maurice Chandler, Anne and Max Rodoler, Garrie and Joachim Rodoler, Rose and Carl Schwab, Sabina and Benno Manasse, GHR and Manfred Cyske, Lydia Tauber

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem mourns the passing of

BERT GOLDSTEIN

wife of the late Dr. Israel Goldstein and a long-time, faithful friend and supporter of the University

and expresses condolences to the entire family

KEREN HAYESOD - UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL mourns the passing of

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Widow of the former World Chairman of Keren Hayesod, Dr. Israel Goldstein, and a devoted friend of our organization.

Shlomo Hillel World Chairman Julia Koochitzky Chair, Board of Trustees Moshe Gur Director General

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA The Board of Governors of the University of Haifa and the University community express sorrow at the passing of

Dr. BERT GOLDSTEIN

a valued member of the Board since its inception.

May her memory be for a blessing.

Elected reps to join PNC on March 20

JON IMMANUEL

THE 88 elected members of the elected council will join the Palestinian National Council on March 20, PNC Speaker Salim Zaaoun said yesterday in Gaza.

That date is approximately that by which Israel expects the PNC will cancel the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant referring to the destruction of Israel. This is supposed to happen within two months after the elected council convenes.

However, from Zaaoun's point of view the elected members do not start functioning as a council until they join the PNC.

Zaaoun said "the 88 will be added to 540 existing members making 628." The mathematics makes the likelihood of achieving a two-thirds majority for annulling of the offending clauses highly unlikely.

Last week, PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said the 88 elected members, plus 100 leading vote-getters among the losers, will replace many of the PNC's 450 members (according to his count), making local Palestinians close to half the membership.

Zaaoun denied Shaath's assessment that the covenant calls for 50% of the PNC membership to be from "inside Palestine," once Palestinian rule is established there.

He said it remained to be decided whether the PNC would convene inside or outside Palestinian territory, and its first task would be "to change some of the Israeli laws which Palestinians

are suffering from," rather than change the covenant.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, who has been pressing for admission of PNC members to Gaza, has said a PNC meeting in Gaza would be more likely to cancel the covenant than a meeting abroad.

Meanwhile, Samiha Khalil, who is running against Arafat for the presidency, completed a three-day tour of the Gaza Strip yesterday, addressing fewer than 80 people at a youth club in Jabalya, Gaza's largest refugee camp with 60,000 people.

Amid laughter, she was asked, "You are running for election because you oppose Oslo, but since you are running and not boycotting elections, you must support Oslo. So which is it?"

She replied that "Oslo was a big mistake and I want to fix it. Do you not allow me the right to change it?"

Khalil proposed postponing the elections "until Israel hands over the collaborator Kamal Hamad," the Gaza contractor alleged to have helped assassinate bomb-maker Yitzy Ayyash.

In another development, Maj. Gen. Nasser Yusef, director of public security, said that Israel had agreed "to get out of Palestinian-populated areas in Hebron for a day and go into the Jewish settlements there."

His comment to Peace Watch election observers contradicted Maj. Gen. Oren Shabar, government coordinator in the territories, who said Sunday that IDF troops will remain where they are, but "because it is Saturday, they will not be on regular patrol."

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Supreme Court begins hearing Elba appeal

SEVEN Supreme Court justices yesterday began hearing an appeal by Ido Elba, who was convicted of incitement to racism for writing a halachic article implying it is permissible to kill Arabs.

Elba, who was also convicted of attempting to obtain and manufacture illegal weapons, seeking information about a restricted area, and obstructing justice, was sentenced to two years in prison. He has already served more than two-thirds of his sentence, but was denied parole.

The article in question said that while killing non-Jewish residents of Israel is prohibited by the Torah, this prohibition does not hold today, when there is no Temple.

Attorney Naftali Werzberger, representing Elba, argued that to put a man in prison for an academic article would threaten halachic research. Scholars will not want to write if they fear that unpopular or even misunder-

EVELYN GORDON

stood positions will land them in jail, he said.

"Academic freedom also includes halachic research," Werzberger said, noting that relations between Jews and non-Jews have always been a topic of deep interest to halachic scholars. A list compiled by Prof. Nahum Rakover of the Justice Ministry included some 350 recent articles on the topic, including 20 on the subject of the legality of killing a non-Jew.

Justices Aharon Barak, Gavriel Bach, Eliezer Goldberg, Eliahn Mazza, Zvi Tal, Dalia Dornier, and Ya'acov Terkel agreed that such articles are not inherently illegal. However, they said, the law explicitly states that even quotations from Jewish sources can be illegal if they are brought up for the purpose of inciting.

In this case, the fact that Elba chose to present his article to a

group of Kiryat Arba residents immediately after the Hebron massacre could be construed as legitimizing Baruch Goldstein's act, and thereby inciting to additional acts of racism, they said.

Werzberger argued in response that incitement requires a call to action, which Elba's article did not contain. In fact, it was subtitled "For study, and not for action."

Werzberger also argued that a person cannot be convicted of incitement unless there is a clear and present danger that his words will lead to actions. However, government attorney Nava Ben-Or argued that this restriction only exists in the US, where freedom of speech is a constitutional right. In Israel and all the European countries, she said, the balance is weighted more towards preventing racist speech.

Ben-Or will continue her arguments next week.

Court to IDF: Explain order limiting Hebron man's movement

EVELYN GORDON

IN A rare move, the High Court of Justice yesterday issued a show-cause order against an administrative order limiting the movements of Hebron resident David Shirel.

Justice Zvi Tal gave the army 21 days to justify the order, which forbids Shirel to leave his home in Tel Rumeida for three months. The order is due to expire on February 9.

Shirel, who petitioned the court yesterday, also asked for an interim injunction allowing him to travel to Jerusalem until a final decision is made. The court will consider this request on Friday.

Shirel originally appealed the order to the army's appeals committee, which decided that he should be allowed to go to Jerusalem - something he needs to do occasionally for work purposes. Since this decision, the army has twice agreed to let him do so, but conditioned its permission on an okay from Hebron police chief Ya'acov Ish-Yemini. Both times, however, Ish-Yemini has refused.

Shirel's attorney, Naftali Werzberger, argued the army has no authority to delegate the decision to Ish-Yemini, since only the army can issue administrative orders. Furthermore, he said, the army is violating the ruling of its own appeals committee.

The order was issued because the army fears confrontation between Shirel and Arab residents of the region. Shirel has allegedly been involved in confrontations before, though never convicted, and an indictment against him for stone-throwing is now pending in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

Prisoner row threatens Bosnia peace deadline

SEAN MAGUIRE
SARAJEVO

A key deadline in the Dayton peace accord came under threat yesterday when Bosnia's Moslem-led government refused to release Serb prisoners of war unless 4,000 Moslems are freed.

International Red Cross (ICRC) officials said plans to free hundreds of Moslem, Serb and Croat prisoners still held from the 3 1/2-year conflict had been halted by the government's action.

"The Bosnians say they are not going to comply," said the ICRC's Jacques de Maio in Sarajevo.

"We can only regret they didn't follow our plan which allowed for the comprehensive release of prisoners, which was an important step for building confidence."

The Dayton peace plan demands that all sides release their prisoners by Friday. The Bosnian Croats and separatist Serbs had moved to release their prisoners yesterday, de Maio said.

But Amir Masovic, head of the Bosnian government's prisoner exchange committee, declared: "They (ICRC) shouldn't have expected us to go ahead with this."

He said the Serbs had offered to free only 200 Moslems. There would be no release of Serbs unless 4,000 Moslems were freed.

Masovic said the figure of

4,000 was separate from the 24,000 Moslems the government says are missing. Most of the 24,000 are feared dead.

The government's threat to breach one of the Dayton deadlines presents NATO, in Bosnia to implement the peace deal, with a thorny problem. Heavy pressure is likely to be applied to the government to have it swiftly comply.

NATO and international mediators are meanwhile scrambling to plug a dangerous gap in the timetable for Bosnian peace - a potential six-week power vacuum in areas to be transferred from one faction to another.

Between February 3rd and March 20th there could be no recognized security authority in areas, like Serb Sarajevo, due to change hands.

In the tense Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo, Serb forces must be disarmed or leave, but Moslem-led government police and soldiers cannot move in for six weeks.

"There is a gap, a big gap," said one United Nations source who said there were worries troublemakers could prey on the fears of the population to destabilize

the handover process in its delicate interim stage.

The desperate rush by Sarajevo Serbs to ferry out their belongings before their areas revert to government control continued unabated yesterday.

The narrow road leading from Serb-held suburbs up Mount Trebevic was jammed with dilapidated trucks, cars and tractors piled with chairs, tables, bedding and other household items.

Serbs are paying as much as 1,000 German marks (NIS2,100) to hire a truck for a day. "Some people are getting rich from this exodus," said one official.

UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko said units of the unarmed UN international police started patrols yesterday in Lidza, one of the city's Serb-held suburbs, in an operation intended to give Serbs the confidence to stay on rather than flee.

Carl Bildt, who is coordinating the civilian peace effort in Bosnia, said yesterday it would be extremely difficult to meet a September deadline for elections there, but stressed the international community had no choice but to meet the deadline.

"If we can't, the whole peace process will be jeopardized," he told reporters.

State to appeal release of data on administrative detainee

HERB KEINON

JERUSALEM District Court yesterday gave the state attorney 48 hours to appeal its decision to declassify information relating to the administrative detention of Jerusalemite Aryeh Friedman.

Friedman, a rabbinical court lawyer, was arrested at his home on Thursday and told he was being placed under administrative detention for three months.

Since Friedman lives in Jerusalem, however, his case had to come for review before the dis-

tributed tomorrow.

Mitzner said that Friedman, who moved to Jerusalem from Kiryat Arba about six weeks ago, was questioned twice before for "extremist statements."

According to Mitzner, Friedman was questioned in September, and again following the Rabin assassination. Mitzner said that in the second interrogation session his client was asked to become a GSS informant and refused.

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Indonesian rebels free 1 hostage

JAKARTA (Reuters) - Separatist rebels in Indonesia's remote Irian Jaya province temporarily released one of seven European hostages yesterday to convey their demands, an armed forces spokesman said.

Sources close to the rescue operation, now in its second week, said German Frank Momberg was still in Wamena town more than five hours after arriving. It was not clear whether he would be going back into the dense jungle.

"He has not gone back yet and I don't know when he will. That is a point of negotiation," a source said in Jakarta after nightfall in Irian Jaya, but gave no details.

Earlier, the official Antara news agency quoted military spokesman Brigadier-General Suwarno Adiwijoyo as saying Momberg would have to return to the rebel camp in Irian Jaya, Indonesia's half of New Guinea island some 4,000 km east of Jakarta.

Momberg was lent by the rebels after they received food and medicine from the military this morning," Antara quoted Suwarno as saying. "He was asked to explain the various matters regarding the demands by the hostages. After that, he has to return to the hostage site."

The sources close to the rescue operation said Momberg's temporary release was a positive development.

"It can only be seen as a positive development but we should not leap too quickly to the conclusion that we are near the end. These things can take a very long time," one source said.

It was not clear when Momberg, a member of the Geneva-based World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), had been told by the rebels to return.

Momberg was released after three Christian missionaries flew by helicopter to an area where the hostages were being held near Mapuduma, 2,700 meters above sea level and 160 km from Wamena, Irian Jaya military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Maulud Hidayat said.

"German Frank Momberg was handed over to the missionaries by the rebels. He is now in Wamena for a medical check-up," he said.

Guerrillas of the Free Papua Movement, or OPM, took 24 hostages - seven of them Europeans - on January 8 in Mapuduma, 300 km from the Papua New Guinea border.

The other hostages include four Cambridge University graduates - Daniel Starr, William Oates, Annette van der Kolk and Anna McIvor - and a Dutch WWF member, Mark van der Wal.

Dutch UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) staffer Martha Klein also was taken.



Hebrew University-Hadassah medical student Oded Schweirman is congratulated yesterday by Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny on receiving one of the first 40 scholarships of the Abu Ghosh Fund, as (from left) Deputy Health Minister Navaf Massalha, MK Sallah Tarif, and fund founder Jawdat Ibrahim look on. Ibrahim established the fund in gratitude for his brother's treatment at Hadassah Hospital. (Ariel Jerusalemi)

Ariel Sharon: Peres, Shamir 'handed over' Pollard to US

LIAT COLLINS

MK Ariel Sharon (Likud) yesterday accused the 1984 national unity government of "handing over" Jonathan Pollard to the US to face espionage charges by refusing to accept responsibility for his actions.

Sharon said he had told then-prime minister Shimon Peres and foreign minister Yitzhak Shamir not to submit documents that could incriminate Pollard.

Shamir had told him at the time: "A country needs to know how to sacrifice a person," Sharon told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Sharon also accused successive governments of not making a serious effort to obtain Pollard's release.

"The handing of the Pollard affair was fundamentally mistaken. Even though I am not personally connected with the subject, I had told Peres and Shamir that in my opinion Israel must apologize for what happened and ensure that it not recur. The investigation should not have been allowed to be carried out and documents in our possession not handed over. [I said] if we accept the US's demands we are dooming Pollard to a life sentence," Sharon recalled.

Weizman: I won't speak of forgiveness

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH and agencies
BONN

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman said yesterday that he had no intention of speaking of forgiveness when he addresses the Bundestag today.

"I don't have the right to forgive them for the terrible disaster that happened to the Jewish people," Weizman told reporters after arriving in Bonn on the second day of his state visit to Germany.

He conferred in Bonn with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations and met with Jewish leaders.

Weizman met earlier with surviving members of the German resistance in Berlin and laid a wreath at Ploetzensee Prison, where the Nazis executed some 2,500 resistance fighters from Germany and abroad between 1933 and 1945.

Weizman, accompanied by German President Roman Herzog and Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen, stood silently in a stark chamber lined at one end with meat hooks, from which Hitler's enemies were hanged. Many of the plotters who tried to assassinate Adolf Hitler on July 20, 1944 died in that room.

In a program specially arranged by Herzog, Weiz-

man then broke a political taboo by meeting aging German resistance figures behind closed doors.

Eberhard Baethke, a participant who was close to executed resistance theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, marveled at the fact that an Israeli president would visit the site.

"This is something that was rejected by the Israelis before, for many understandable reasons, because there were a lot of antisemites among resistance figures," he told German radio.

"There is no stronger proof that things have changed and we have started a positive dialogue than this visit here today," he added. "It is an extraordinarily moving event that I would take part in such a thing at my advanced age."

Ludwig von Hammerstein, a member of the group that injured but did not kill Hitler with a time bomb planted in his "Wolf's Lair" hideaway, was also impressed at the unprecedented meeting.

"There is no question that it was moving to hear the president of Israel at this spot, to hold talks with him," he told German radio afterwards.

The Red Army liberated the prison in April 1945. It opened as a monument to the resistance in 1952.

Olmert scraps capital's lights-out plan

BILL HUTMAN

THE street lights were to stay on last night in Jerusalem, after a public outcry over their being turned off in many neighborhoods late Sunday night to save the financially strapped city money.

Yesterday, Mayor Ehud Olmert scrapped the plan to turn off the lights at 1 a.m., which would have saved the city some NIS 3 million a year, a city spokeswoman said.

There were also reports of police concern that criminals would take advantage of the darkness in many neighborhoods.

The blackout was planned to effect all neighborhoods except those in sensitive areas, such as Neveh Ya'acov and the Old City.

Olmert ordered the city manager to find other areas to make budget cuts that would make up for the money spent on street lighting this year.

Study: More younger brothers are gay

NEW YORK (AP) - The more boys a mother has produced, the greater the chance that the next son will be gay, a study says.

The reason might involve the mother's immune system acting on the developing male fetus, researchers speculated. Or, they said, it could be a psychological effect on a boy of growing up with older brothers.

Several earlier studies found that gay men tended to have more previously born siblings than heterosexual men did. The new study says this effect comes only from brothers, not sisters.

Psychologist Ray Blanchard reported the work in the January issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry with Anthony Bogaert.

Marcos talks draw protests

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Philippine human rights activists accused their own lawyer of treachery during talks in Hong Kong yesterday to decide claims to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' fortune.

Brandishing placards which said "Marcos is liable for gross human rights violation" and "No to dropping of charges against Imelda Marcos", the 30-odd demonstrators also protested against holding the talks in Hong Kong rather than Manila.

The presence of Attorney Robert Swift, lead counsel for the victims grouping in the Marcos human rights litigation, will be his final act of treachery," a statement distributed by the demonstrators said.

Demonstrators from Samahan Ng Mga Ex-detainees Laban Sa Detensyon At Para Sa Amnestiya (SELDA), which represents 5,000 of an estimated 10,000 vic-

tims of abuse under Marcos-imposed martial law, and which filed the compensation claim, opposed a deal reached by Swift with the Philippine government.

The deal is for an out-of-court financial settlement which clears the way for the government's own claim to the Marcos' billions.

SELDA was particularly angered as the deal involved charges being dropped against the Marcos family, including Imelda Marcos, wife of the late dictator.

"There should be no sell-out in these talks," said Marie Hilao Enriquez, secretary general of SELDA. "Marcos is guilty...he must be held liable for these crimes."

The protesters were demonstrating in front of a hotel where a spokesman for the negotiators announced a news blackout at the end of the first day of talks. The talks themselves were held at a secret location.

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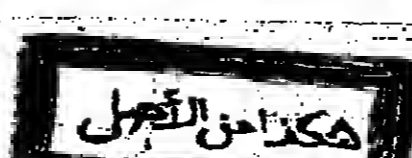
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Ex-South Korean president rejects bribery charge

SANG-HUN CHOE
SEOUL

FORMER President Roh Tae-woo, ordered to undergo cross-examination at his bribery trial, told a court in irritated tones yesterday that he had nothing to do with awarding contracts to businessmen who gave him money.

"I have never, ever intended to accept any bribes," Roh said emphatically in response to a volley of questions from the lead prosecutor. "I have received only donations. I have never swapped them for favors."

Roh's outburst came as the defense tried to score points by claiming that the \$650 million which flowed into Roh's office during his 1988-93 term represented only goodwill gifts, not bribes.

Attorneys for leading businessmen said their clients thought their donations would be used to help the poor and build hospitals and old-age homes.

Standing trial with Roh are 14 industrialists and former government officials who served under him. They are charged with bribing him or helping him raise his slush fund.

Prosecutors were clearly miffed that several businessmen changed the statements they had given during investigation of the case.

"Do all the South Korean group heads have a habit of reversing their earlier remarks?" prosecutor Kim Jin-tae asked.

The presiding judge ruled the question was irrelevant, but Chung Tae-soo, the elderly chairman of the construction and steel-making giant Hanbo, claimed he couldn't remember what he told prosecutors because they kept him awake for two nights.

Roh had refused earlier yesterday to give testimony beyond statements he made in the trial's

first day a month ago.

Instead, he issued a written statement claiming he acted properly and under long-standing tradition when he accepted money from businessmen. He has said he used it to run his ruling party.

"Since I do not want anyone else to be punished in connection with this, I would neither make any excuse nor want any cross-examination aimed at easing punishment," Roh's statement said.

He said he left an "unexpected amount of money" unused when he stepped down in 1993 - prosecutors claim he had \$295 million in property and secret bank accounts - but planned to use it for "something big" for the nation. He did not say what it was.

But as Presiding Judge Kim Young-il prepared to close for the day, lead prosecutor Moon Young-ho asked to cross-examine Roh and the steady stream of businessmen who testified they gave money to stay in the government's good graces.

The judge agreed, and Roh was questioned for 10 minutes at the plastic defense bench where he had sat almost motionless earlier in the day.

Prosecutors claim Roh took \$365 million in bribes in exchange for major government projects. The case has been in recess since the opening day Dec. 18. The next hearing is in two weeks.

Security was tight as Roh, a 63-year-old former army general, arrived for the most significant trial in South Korean history.

Hundreds of people - many of them scalpers - stood in line overnight in freezing weather for the 80 seats allotted to the public.

(AP)

South Africa's former rulers look at future

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South Africa's former ruling National Party (NP), which created and decades later abandoned apartheid, said yesterday it was reviewing its future which could ultimately lead to the creation of a new umbrella party.

"The National Party on its own can't do anything against the ANC," said NP spokesman Danie du Plessis, echoing party frustration about its inability to significantly influence President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) in the unity government.

Du Plessis said a "coalition" could include parties such as the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and the liberal Democratic Party (DP), but so far discussions on such a move were confined to the nationalists.

"My view is it could lead to one umbrella party later on... something has to be done (to counter the ANC)," he said, adding that "people of color" had to be attracted to the NP, or whatever it became.

The National Party's parliamentary caucus was meeting in Cape Town yesterday to discuss the options, du Plessis said, reinforcing the party's weekend denial of a newspaper report suggesting it was on the brink of dissolution.

"Any reports that the National Party was going to disband are totally untrue," said du Plessis and no major upheavals were expected following the meeting. A new name could be considered, but an early decision was unlikely.

He said changing the party's name would not work in isolation and the nationalists, which lost many conservative voters to the rightist Freedom Front, needed to examine itself.

"The NP is looking at all avenues of how to get people of the same values together," he said.

The Afrikaans newspaper *Rapport* said the party, which ruled South Africa for 50 years, was about to break up and a new party with a new name would form.

Quoting from a leaked working document, the paper said the NP planned to change its name and structure and it said the party's leaders were willing to dissolve it.

Political analysts said the NP, which created and more than 40 years later dismantled apartheid, found itself shackled to a past in which blacks were regarded as second-class citizens.

The NP, a junior partner in Mandela's unity government, holds power in only one of South Africa's nine post-apartheid provinces, the Western Cape, where it was able to mobilize the votes of people of mixed race in the April 1994 all-race polls.

The NP was restricted by its role in government which prevented it from being an effective opposition, analysts said.

National Party leader and South African Deputy President F.W. de Klerk said in a statement the person who leaked the document to *Rapport* "apparently endeavored to maliciously sabotage a comprehensive and longer-term initiative on the National Party".

Papandreou family feud erupts

ATHENS (Reuters) - The wife of ailing Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou accused his children and ex-wife yesterday of orchestrating attacks against her and vowed to fight attempts to forcibly replace him.

Dimitra Liani said in an interview with the monthly magazine *Colt* that the Papandreou family was trying to prevent her from inheriting the veteran socialist leader's political mantle.

"The family is trying to take over Papandreou's political inheritance... They want Dimitra outside of all this. They say she harms him," said the ambitious and controversial Liani, a former Olympic Airways stewardess.

Excerpts from the January 8 interview were published by an Athens daily on yesterday. *Colt*, which will publish the full interview today, confirmed they were genuine.

"They fight me with a double plan," said Liani, who married

Papandreou in 1989.

The family on one side by making (his daughter) Sofia Katsaneva seem like a holy woman. And (his ex-wife) Margaret is on the other side."

Papandreou's four children and his American former wife Margaret have politely acknowledged Liani, 40, as Papandreou's wife. However, newspapers have long reported heated arguments between Liani and Sofia, a mother of two.

In her first interview since Papandreou was admitted to hospital on November 20, Liani said she spoke to him while he slept in intensive care, urging him to fight for his life.

Papandreou, 76, who founded the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) in 1974 and swept to power as Greece's first socialist prime minister in 1981, has been booked to life-support machines for his failing lungs and kidneys for eight weeks.



A Russian soldier moves into position near Pervomayskiy yesterday as troops attacked Chechen gunmen holding 100 hostages. (Reuters)

Russian troops kill 60 rebels

News agencies
PERVOMAYSKAYA, Russia

RUSSIAN forces yesterday stormed a village where rebels held more than 100 hostages. While fighting still raged after dark, authorities said troops had killed 60 rebels, captured others and freed nine of the captives.

Interfax and Itar-Tass news agencies said the nine hostages had been brought out of Pervomayskoye several hours after Russian troops stormed the village to end a six-day stand-off.

Interfax said Russian troops had four dead and 14 wounded.

Gunfire cracked and explosions could be heard every second when the attack began in the morning. Helicopter gunships rocketed the village, and artillery and mortar shells thundered.

Shell blasts lit up the village at nightfall, the only light on a plain where power had been cut.

The shells appeared to explode over nearby Sovetskaya and drift towards Pervomayskoye, where Chechen rebels were holed up with the hostages not far from the border with their homeland.

Rebels responded with rounds from grenade launchers.

"It's really very dangerous out there," said a Russian conscript soldier at a checkpoint at the edge of Pervomayskaya.

Rockets hissed across flat, muddy fields still patched with snow and slammed into already blazing buildings. At the start of the assault, explosions sounded every second or two. Machine-gun fire drowned out conversation.

"Look what they have done to such a peaceful place," said policeman Ali as he watched from a distance the attack on the village where he worked. "Different ethnic groups have lived here for generations. Now look at it."

Power appeared to have been cut in the area to keep up pressure on the rebels.

White flashes and thick smoke poured from the village, which was in flames. A rocket destroyed a school, where some of the hostages had been held. The ground shook in the nearby village of Sovetskaya.

Various reports put the number of hostages at between 70 and 120, including women and children. Anatoly Zinevich, duty officer of the Interior Ministry in Moscow, said nine hostages were freed.

There was no word on the fate of the rest. They had been guarded by rebels in village

homes, a mosque and the school.

There was intense hand-to-hand fighting inside the village. The Russians encountered fierce resistance from the rebels, who managed to knock out several Russian armored personnel carriers. The rebel fighters were estimated to number between 150 and 250.

Two servicemen along with 60 rebels were killed in the fighting, Zinevich said. He said as many as 16 soldiers were wounded. President Boris Yeltsin received constant updates on the assault.

"We want the terrorists punished, wiped out," Yeltsin said.

After months of inactivity with heart trouble, Yeltsin's direct involvement in the crisis appears to show he is back in command, but the attack could backfire if many of the hostages perish.

Politicians lambasted Yeltsin and warned he could face bitter consequences. Candidates in the race to replace Yeltsin in a June election lined up with a human rights activist and parties which face their first session in the new parliament today to criticize the Kremlin's high-risk operation.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, a likely presidential candidate, had nothing but scorn, blaming the crisis on "the president, the government and their ham-fisted policies".

"The consequences of the attack would be tragic for Russia and Yeltsin himself," Interfax quoted Zyuganov as saying.

In the Chechen capital Grozny, a violent explosion rocked a movie theater and rebel fighters there tried to attack various official buildings. All traffic was banned, to minimize rebel actions.

The attack on Pervomayskaya came on the sixth day of a tense standoff in the tiny village on bleak fields of the Russian republic of Dagestan, less than two km from Chechnya.

Gen. Mikhail Barsukov, the head of the Federal Security Service, made contact with the rebels at 8:50 a.m. and gave them 10 minutes to come out holding white flags or face an attack, said Maj. Gen. Alexander Mikhailov, a security forces spokesman.

The rebels failed to appear, and the Russians began an all-out assault at 9:00 a.m.

In a statement, Barsukov said the rebels had started killing hostages Sunday and such acts were no longer tolerable.

The captives killed were two Interior Ministry troops, Mikhailov said. Itar-Tass, quoting unidentified security sources, said the rebels had shot six more Interior Ministry troops yesterday morning as well as six Dagestani elders who tried to organize talks.

"On the 14th of January at 4 p.m., the terrorists opened fire on federal troops and began to kill hostages. Because the federal powers cannot put up with this illegal act any longer, they have been obliged to resort to the use of force to free the hostages," said the statement, read by Mikhailov to reporters.

Alexander Zdanovich, deputy spokesman of the security service, told Itar-Tass the attack was inevitable following the interception of rebel radio communication ordering the killing of the hostages.

A rebel spokesman, Movladi Udnogov, denied the Chechens had killed any hostages, the Interfax news agency reported.

The Russians were insisting the rebels free the hostages and give up their arms, while the Chechens stood firm on demanding a guarantee of safe passage back to their breakaway republic.

One woman from Pervomayskaya looked on in anguish as Russian forces blasted her village.

"I spent 30 years building our home - our cattle, our clothes, and everything is there," said Suaybat Aliyeva, a 45-year-old nurse.

The rebels had seized up to 3,000 hostages last Tuesday in the Dagestani town of Kizlyar; at least 40 people were killed in fighting. The gunmen soon released most hostages and headed for Chechnya in buses, but were stopped by Russian forces at Pervomayskaya.

Barsukov and Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov arrived in Dagestan from Moscow on Sunday. Their arrival marked the most direct participation yet by the Kremlin, which had let Dagestani officials negotiate with the gunmen.

Moscow sent troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to put down rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's three-year drive for independence. Up to 30,000 people have died in the fighting.

Dudayev has said the rebels chose to raid Kizlyar because Russian military helicopters used its airfield to attack Chechnya.

Lesotho king killed in car crash

MASERU, Lesotho (AP) - King Moshoeshoe II died in a car accident yesterday, less than two years after regaining the throne of this politically turbulent southern African nation.

South African diplomats confirmed the death of the constitutional monarch, saying that although they had been officially informed by the Lesotho government yesterday morning, no public announcement had been made by the afternoon.

Lesotho is surrounded by South Africa, and economically dependent on its huge neighbor.

Gerhard Visser, South Africa's ambassador to Lesotho, said Moshoeshoe had traveled in rural Lesotho to inspect his cattle and was returning to Maseru, the capital, early yesterday when the accident occurred. The king's car left the road, overturned and rolled down an embankment, killing Moshoeshoe and his driver. No other cars were involved.

Moshoeshoe's wife, Queen Mamatshane Seiso, was in take over as regent until the Traditional College of Chiefs, a tribal body, named a successor, Visser said. He said he did not expect Moshoeshoe's death to shake Lesotho's three-year-old democracy.

"He was only a constitutional king in any case," Visser said. "He had no say whatsoever in government."

Moshoeshoe, 57, had been on and off the throne three times in the waves of political unrest that have swept Lesotho since independence from Britain in 1966.

When he was deposed in 1989, Moshoeshoe's son Letsie III succeeded him. Moshoeshoe's last reinstatement, in 1994, was engineered by South African President Nelson Mandela.

Thai monk admits killing British woman

BANGKOK (AP) - A Buddhist monk, already imprisoned on rape charges, will face the death penalty for the brutal murder of a young British woman, police said yesterday.

Police said Yodchat Suapoo, 21, confessed trying to rape Johanne Mashed, then pushing her down a 10-meter-deep hole in a cave and beating her to death with a rock.

The director-general of the Thai police, Gen. Pochana Boon-yachinda, called the act "cruel, inhuman." He said it would damage Thailand's reputation and warned foreign women not to stray alone into remote areas.

The now disrobed monk also confessed to the Dec. 7 rape of Inge Holecek, a tourist who returned to her native Austria but will be asked to testify in Thailand.

Mashed was killed Dec. 10 near a Buddhist temple in Kancharaburi, 110 km west of Bangkok, according to a police statement released at the press conference.

Portugal moves left in presidential poll

LISBON (Reuters) - The election of Socialist Jorge Sampaio as president underlines a sharp shift to the political left at a time when Portugal faces tough economic and social choices.

Sunday's vote also marked the end of an era. Sampaio's opponent, former conservative premier Anibal Cavaco Silva, announced his retirement from politics and veteran head of state Mario Soares left the political stage.

The Socialist Soares, who stands down after serving two consecutive five-year terms, and the fiercely free-market Cavaco Silva dominated Portuguese politics for over a decade.

As forecast by the polls, Sampaio comfortably took the presidency with 53.8 percent of the vote to his opponent's 46.2%.

It was the Socialist Party's second electoral triumph in three months. It won control of government in parliamentary elections last October that ended 10 years in opposition.

The election marked the first time that the Portuguese had chosen a new president and prime minister from the same party since democracy was established after the 1974 revolution ended decades of right-wing dictatorship.

"The fact that he is the first president from the same party as the government makes Sampaio's role especially delicate," Vicente Jorge Silva, editor of the newspaper *O Publico*, wrote in an editorial yesterday.

Sampaio, 56-year-old former mayor of Lisbon, will have to oversee Portugal's struggle to

meet tough economic goals for joining a single European Union currency by the end of the century.

While it faces no immediate threat, the Socialist government of Prime Minister Antonio Guterres is a few votes short of an absolute majority and cannot simply drive its legislation through parliament.

The backing of a fellow-Socialist president, who has the power to dissolve parliament and call general elections, could be vital to the government as it prepares to implement painful spending cuts to try to meet the EU's convergence criteria for economic and monetary union.

But Sampaio was quick to say: "I will be above party politics. I will be a symbol of unity for those that voted for me and for those that did not."

He said he would be quite prepared to veto legislation put forward by his Socialist colleagues if he considered it to be against the national interest.

Once considered a left-winger, Sampaio is now solidly in favor of the European Union and says unemployment will be his main concern.

His deep concern for social issues could yet make him an uncomfortable presence for the Socialists as they struggle to match electoral promises with the tough reality of the European Union and Portugal's future place in it.

Political analysts said the vote reinforced the message voters sent when they turned their backs on Cavaco Silva's Social Democrats at the October election.

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OPINION

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Weizman's Zionist challenge

SPEAKING to a gathering of Jews in Berlin, President Ezer Weizman delivered what one Israeli diplomat described as "Zionist answers."
"I cannot understand how 40,000 Jews can live in Germany," Weizman said. "The place for the Jews is in Israel. Only in Israel can Jews live full Jewish lives."
Routinely discarding prepared texts in his public appearances, Weizman is a straight talker who has made unvarnished, unrefined, and unadorned speech his trademark. He is also an unabashed Zionist, who seems to have no doubts about the justness, essentiality, and purpose of Zionism. For him, as for all Zionists, no goal can be nobler than ensuring that within a decade or so Israel will contain the largest Jewish community in the world, numbering seven or eight million. A strong Jewish state which the majority of the world's Jews call their home is, after all, the fulfillment of the Zionist dream. And while Weizman may be more blunt than most statesmen, he said in Berlin that every president of Israel would have said.
Yet Weizman's appeal made news, as if there were something startlingly unusual about it, and it seemed to irk the local Jewish community. President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany Ignatz Bubis said he disagrees with Weizman's statement. "The full revival of the Jewish community in post-war Germany is important," he said. "Our living here does not mean that we cannot maintain a strong bond with Israel."

For obvious reasons, there is something particularly unpalatable about Jews living in Germany. But this is unfair. Half a century after the Holocaust, Germany should be accepted for what it is today: a European democracy and Israel's most important friend in the world next to the US.
There will always be "the memory of the Holocaust between the German people and the Jewish people," as German President Roman Herzog put it. And Germany will always be expected to make a special effort to prevent the repetition of what happened under the Nazis.
But what Weizman said in Germany applies to Jews everywhere. He accurately pointed out that it is in the US - where Jews have thrived more than anywhere else and where there are still more Jews than in Israel - that the danger of assimilation is greatest. Such trends are likely to continue, not only in North America, but wherever there are large Jewish communities. Israel may become not just the only place where Jews can live fully as Jews; it may be the only place where a large Jewish community exists.
Yet if young Israelis fail to believe in Zionism the way Weizman does, they too will be swallowed in the wave of assimilation. If living in Israel becomes no more than a geographic accident, as it is to many, they may find it easier to agree with Bubis than with Weizman. And if Weizman truly wishes to transform Israel into a magnet for world Jewry, he will have to do more than inveigh against "Americanization." He will have to press for Zionist education in Israel with as much urgency as he preaches aliya in the Diaspora.

Afrikaners grumble

WHEN grumbling Afrikaners gathered in Pretoria at the weekend to protest against "racial discrimination," they probably failed to realize the irony of their demonstration. Nor did they ponder bow blacks gathering to protest racial discrimination in South Africa would have been treated during the years of apartheid.
In fact, the demonstration turned out to be a somewhat feeble affair, in view of the furrowed brows of analysts and sootysayers predicting resurgent militancy among the diehard Afrikaners, who feel they have lost most in South Africa's new democracy. Even the 1,000 who gathered around the now shabby Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria failed to mount a show of unity, as a clash erupted over an attempt by extremists to tear down the new South African flag. The flag was rescued after a brief scuffle, but the minor incident demonstrated that the majority of these so-called extremists of the white right are decent people, willing to exercise their democratic right to air their views, but unwilling to insult the flag or the government of their new country.
Far too much has been made in foreign commentaries of the dangers posed by the Afrikaners. Once the strength of the hideous official apartheid apparatus was removed, the Afrikaners turned out to be fairly innocuous extremists. The attempt by their armed militants to stage a coup in the Boputhatswana homeland before the 1994 elections was a pretty miserable effort, crushed in minutes by local police.
For all the macho posturing of young Afrikaner bucks, the vast majority of South Africa's three million Afrikaners - about 6 percent of the population - accept President Nelson Mandela's policy of reconciliation, are proud of their country's new image in the world, and really want to make the best of the new system. That so few turned up for the much-publicized rally, and then squabbled among themselves over national dignity, should silence the prophets of doom who predict a phalanx of militaristic Afrikaner jackboots crushing the new-born democracy.
The general respect for Mandela has all but isolated neo-Nazi elements in the Afrikaner camp and the speeches of the mainstream leaders are surprisingly mild - a far cry from the blood-curdling calls to all-out war made by the neo-Nazis before the elections.
The main thrust of the Afrikaners' concerns appear to be cultural - they do not want their history, religion, or language to be swamped. Mandela responded with his usual graciousness, saying he would never degrade their language or culture - "We must look at the needs of the country as a whole."
Gatherings of Afrikaner demonstrators should be viewed for what they are - valid democratic expressions of community concerns. It is time to give the shrill and sinister condemnations of this community a rest. White African tribes also have their rights.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MYTHICAL CONCEPTS

Sir, - We write under the impact of a full-page article in The New York Times of December 26 on the Golan Heights including a detailed map and illustrations. Even without ever having visited the Golan, anybody reading the description of productive farms and vineyards, a factory of electric motors, the wealth of water, early-warning installations and Mt. Hermon ski slopes, would wonder what on earth is driving the government of a small and vulnerable country like Israel to give all this away for a mythical idea of a "comprehensive peace" or a "New Middle East."
Obviously, the article was prompted by the ongoing negotiations with Syria. According to the reporter, residents and visitors alike profess to want peace, yet it seems that the area now enjoys complete peace with no terrorist attacks and no hostile population, so there is really no question of ruling over another people.
In a larger context it would appear that the diplomatic game is meant to lure Syria out of a hostile, anti-Western posture and into a cooperative stance by sacrificing the Golan

for a possible elimination of terrorism against Israel and against Turkey, of drug trafficking, arms proliferation and possible elimination of the occupation of Lebanon. Will the Syria of Assad ever consider this bribe as sufficient to change its well-entrenched ways? Very doubtful.
Meanwhile the government of Israel is prepared to give up a valuable area that was fought for and wrestled from the murderous Syrians in 1967, then again in 1973 at a cost of many young lives. Is it not an affront to the memory of these brave men to treat their sacrifice so lightly?
What kind of strategic asset for Western interest will Israel represent in a shrunken territory, showing little regard for self-interest, depending on American GIs for protection, and having no direct control of its water supplies?
How long can the morale of the population hold up before everybody concludes that their leaders have lost touch with reality, and care more about slogans than safety?

NICK WELNER
BARBARA WELNER
Hamden, Conn.

TRASH

Sir, - On December 31, you published a letter by an American travel agent complaining about the trash along highways, on beaches, etc.
The complaint is very much to the point. I travel several times a year from Beersheba to Jerusalem and back by Egged bus. Each time, I am appalled by the trash along the highways wherever the bus stops at the

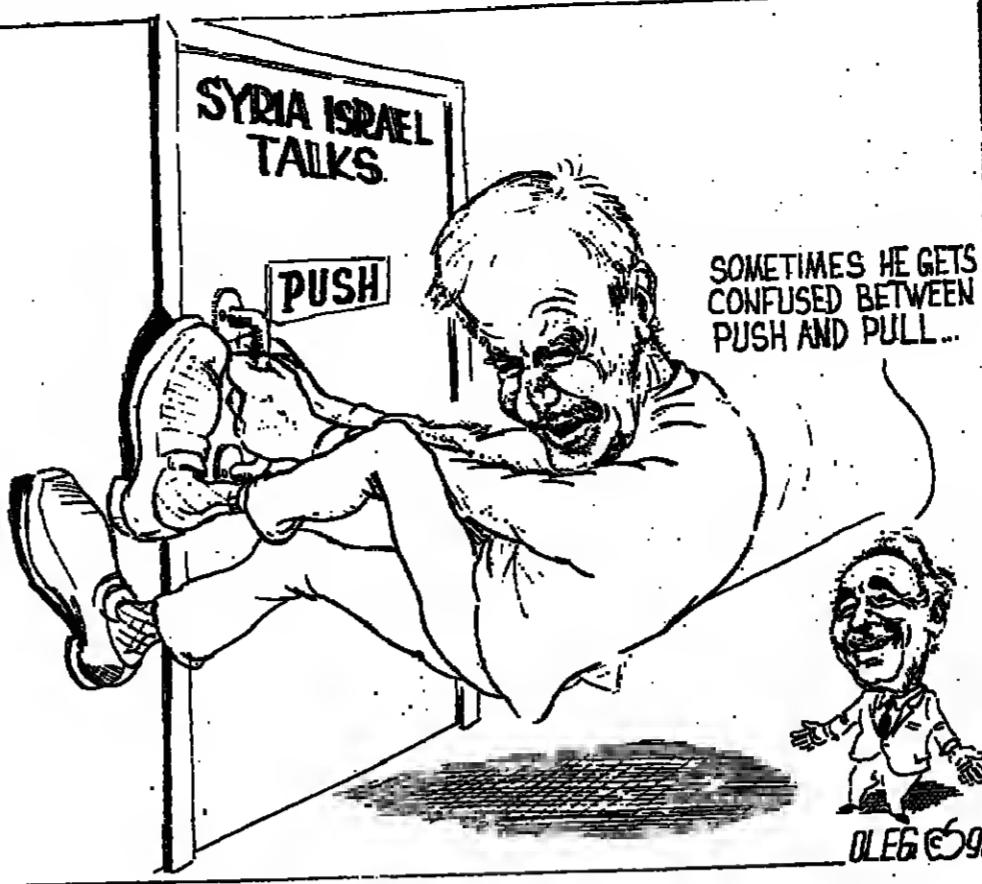
junctions to let passengers on and off. All roads at the junctions and the junction areas are littered with trash. Is nobody responsible for keeping the junction areas clean? Once-a-year clean-up campaigns are not the answer.
DR. JACOB ROSIN
Netanya.

ISRAEL'S SCHOOLS

Sir, - The minister of education clearly does not know what goes on in the secular schools under his control.
In his letter "Due process" (January 1), he denies calling for any political denunciation of teachers by pupils, except when they have expressed support for Rabin's murder.
I suggest that he investigate a far more serious and widespread phenomenon - the brainwashing of pupils by teachers holding leftist opinions, who are seizing the opportunity presented by the assassination to impose their views on pupils. There are pupils who are afraid to express any contrary opinion, even if it is based on fact and logic; they are accused of being abusive and this is - in the cases which have come to my attention - completely untrue.
The fact is that politicization of the schools is now blatant - and this under the guise of teaching "democracy and tolerance."
On second thoughts, I cannot believe that the minister does not know what is going on.
MEIR ABELSON
Jerusalem.

MUCH ADO

Sir, - Much ado is being made about Shimon Peres's remark that he would consider abandoning the nuclear option after peace is achieved. It is being overlooked that this remark is actually completely meaningless, because he specified peace with Libya, Iraq and Iran, which is the same thing as saying after hell freezes over.
DR. JACOB ROSIN
Netanya.



No guns, no funds

HAFEZ Assad, president of Syria, and Saddam Hussein, president of Iraq, are separated by one dramatic difference. Mr. Hussein has a bigger mustache.

A.M. ROSENTHAL

political or military commitments are made by US negotiators.

Otherwise, twins. They are mass murderers of their own people - counting by thousands. Both are total dictators, ruling by torture and execution. Both devote themselves to doing the greatest possible damage to democracy, particularly the US.
And as the US plays broker in the talks between Syria and Israel, the American people and Congress should remember another talent both men share: playing on the weakness and greed of the West to make their dictatorships stronger.

Will Americans learn at last about dealing with total dictators like Hafez Assad?

Under the eyes of Syrian officers, and for advantage of the military budget, huge crops of opium are grown in and shipped out of Lebanon, part of the drug network that feeds into the American bloodstream.
The West saw national interest in Kuwait and adjoining Saudi Arabia and fought to protect them. But the West decided that Lebanon was not worth bothering about. And the US decided it would do nothing about the drug crops and terrorist bases - like warning villagers to get out and then setting opium and camps afire from the air. It did put Syria on the short list of nations that could not trade with the US.
The Syrians know their price list to the US for a peace treaty and, count on it, so do the Israelis and Washington. Take Syria off the terrorist list, put US troops on the Golan, fork over some real money and allow access to Western arms.
Simple, as should be our answers to Syria:
Take the Golan since the Israelis offer it. Then peace be with you and its own reward. You stay on the terrorist list until you destroy drug crops and terrorist camps, under continuing verification. But no US troops on the Golan; no arms, not a pistol; no money, not a dollar.
These answers should be accepted by Israel, as the US accepts Israeli decisions on its vital interests. To America, its democratic roots, interests and morals, it is indeed vital to refuse this time, at last, to be paymaster and arms merchant for governments, that conquer other peoples and murder their own.
(By permission of The New York Times)

Opportunity for renewal

DAVID HARTMAN

SINCE the Six Day War, religious Zionism has taken pride in, first, its educational system, which produced loyal Zionist youth who could integrate religious commitment with full army service; and second, its making the ideal of Jewish control over the whole land of Israel into a major organizing principle of devotion and concern.
Its education was dealt a serious blow by the Rabin assassination. Religious Zionist educators couldn't escape the grave shadow cast upon the system in which they had taken such pride. How could a moral monster have grown up in their midst without their being aware of the blind and vicious fanaticism that perverted his mind and soul?
Many people attribute the moral failure embodied by Yigal Amir to the second motif: absolute Jewish sovereignty over the whole land of Israel. Amir believed that territorial compromise was tantamount to national suicide, and the moral equivalent of treason against everything sacred in Judaism.
The myth of the Greater Land of Israel was also weakened by the peace process and the ease with which many Israelis have accommodated themselves to territorial compromise.
I am a religious Zionist who believes that the rebirth of the Jewish state is vitally important for the future of modern Judaism. But religious Zionism must change its priorities if it is to play a vital role in shaping society's future.
Religious parties in Israel have relied on legislation to influence the Jewish population. The state must have a Jewish character and,

they therefore claim, the power of the Knesset may be used to maintain the Jewishness of society.
The fact is, however, that using legislative power to imbue society with the Jewish spirit has been a total failure. If anything, it has alienated Jews from Judaism, reinforcing the stereotype of religion as a self-serving, coercive force, oblivious to human rights and the value of freedom of conscience.
Yiddishkeit must grow and develop within the human soul. Without personal identification and respect, no amount of legislation can affect how Jews think and feel about Judaism. Religious students who meet with alienated Jewish youth at the Kotel and invite them home for Shabbat do more for Judaism than all the religious legislation passed by the Knesset.
THE RABBINATE too must undergo a major transformation. Quoting authoritative halachic texts to promote an interest in Judaism is futile. You can't use legal language to coerce people who do not share your authoritative premises and presuppositions.
The rabbinate must begin to act like genuine educators, participating in the discussion about the nature of Israeli life as "a" voice, not as "the" voice. Religious Zionism must develop a leadership prepared to discard the mantle of authority and present persuasive moral arguments to convince Israelis that Judaism has something important to say.
There is a vibrant, liberal hu-

manistic culture in Israel. Those who believe it lacks Jewish depth must offer an understanding of God that will inspire people to begin a spiritual quest. The future of religious Zionism depends on separating religion from politics, on allowing Torah to compete freely in the marketplace of ideas.
The challenge facing religious Zionism is not only how to educate students to combine army service with religious observance, but how to inculcate loyalty and love of the tradition together with genuine respect for the values of pluralism, democracy and freedom of conscience.
Religious Zionism must also change its exclusive focus on the sovereignty of the whole land of Israel. The Talmud says that shalom, peace, is one of the names of God. The attempt at reconciliation with the Arab world without endangering our security is not a repudiation of the Torah, but an affirmation of God's covenantal call to Israel to bear witness to the ideals of justice and the sacredness of human life.
If we can focus our religious passions on a vision of life that expresses the dignity of every human being created in God's image, we may find that the peace process and the trauma of the Rabin assassination has given religious Zionism an opportunity to correct the distortions which have shaped its religious and political vision since the Six Day War, and in so doing, renew itself.

The writer is founder and director of the Shalom Hartman Institute, and lectures in philosophy at the Hebrew University.

Russia's Vietnam, Yeltsin's choice

SHLOMO AVINERI

THE Chechen problem won't go away.
The new Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, may try to present a more assertive Russian policy regarding NATO's eastward expansion. But a country which fails so dismally, and will continue to fail, as Russia has failed in Chechnya, is not a very reliable partner in a peaceful world order based on stability, mutual respect, and a modicum of civilized behavior.

As France has learned in Algeria - and Israel learned in a different way during the intifada - there are no military solutions to problems of national self-determination, even if accompanied by terrorism.
On the other hand, Russia is, despite its recent travails, a major power, and Boris Yeltsin is facing presidential elections in June.
A public humiliation of Russia - and of Yeltsin personally - must be avoided. Like with America in Vietnam, a way out has to be found.

It is for this reason that attention should be paid to a proposal recently raised by Gregori Yavlinsky. Yavlinsky, one of the more serious and sophisticated among Russian politicians, is head of the Yabloko party in the State Duma. He is also Yeltsin's major rival in the upcoming presidential elections, and at present the most popular Russian politician, judging from public opinion polls.

YAVLINSKY opposed the military intervention in Chechnya from the very beginning, and he has predicted that a military solution will not work.

In the wake of the Chechen hostage-taking in Dagestan, Yav-

An open referendum on the future of Chechnya could provide a way out for a leader facing elections in June

linsky has proposed that a referendum be held in Chechnya. The population, he said, should be given the opportunity to choose between full independence and a variety of federal or confederal links with Russia.
If Moscow believes that Dzhokhar Dudayev, self-declared president of the Chechen Republic, represents only a handful of bandits, surely it shouldn't fear the outcome of an honest referendum?

But beyond this, Yavlinsky's proposal may provide an honorable and reasonable way out.

It may not be easy for Yeltsin to accede to a proposal put forward by his main political rival - but Yeltsin has shown himself a past master of (to use Disraeli's words) "stealing his rivals' clothes while they are bathing."
Offering an open referendum, one perhaps guaranteed by the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), can only enhance Yeltsin's position. It may prevent the conflict from spreading, as it recently did, into neighboring regions of Russia; it may put democratic reforms back on track.

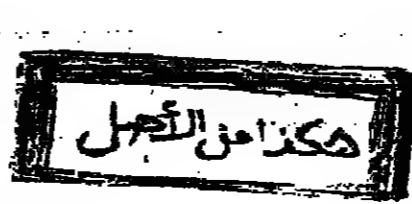
No country can move toward democratic reforms while engaged in an almost genocidal war against a small people, using methods reminiscent of czars and bolshevik commissars. Most people in Russia don't want the war to go on.

It may not be an easy pill for Russia and Yeltsin to swallow. But the alternative - another prolonged Vietnam or Afghanistan - may be worse.

One needs to be careful about predictions, but this one seems pretty safe: If Yeltsin doesn't solve the Chechen uprising honorably, the continued brutality will ultimately bring him, and his government, down.

Russia's friends, and Yeltsin's, should urge him to take up the Yavlinsky proposal. The alternatives are all far more bleak and frightening.

The writer is professor of political science at the Hebrew University, and this year's recipient of the Israel Prize.



Jerusalem Post
Russia's
Vietnam,
Gorbachev's
choice

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

While their guitars gently weep

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

If anything can evoke the days immediately following the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, it is the music we heard during that time. And in an unprecedented collaborative - and nonprofit - effort, the country's major music companies have gotten together and produced a double-disc collection called, *Shalom Chaver* (Goodbye, My Friend). Anyone who listened to the radio or watched the memorial rally on the seventh day of mourning for Rabin already has a pretty good idea of what is included. The opening notes on the record

are actually not Israeli; they are from 'Lambarena,' the haunting piece by J.S. Bach, chosen by Channel 2 as the background music for its coverage of the aftermath of the assassination. The album then launches into "Cry for You," the more subdued version recorded by Arik Einstein last year, not the live version recorded by its writer, Aviv Geffen.

Noga Tal, a Hed Artzi producer who edited the collection, has put together many compilations in her career, but none were as emotional an experience as *Shalom Chaver*. "In the beginning, I sat in the editing room for three days, and I was editing and crying, editing and crying. Nothing speaks to me more than music, and this music brought out so many emotions," she said.

For Tal, the songs on the album virtually chose themselves. The trick was finding the right versions. Some tracks were released on other albums, some were recorded especially for this one, others were recorded at the Rabin memorial rally. "There were proposals just to

produce a recording of the rally," Tal said. "But in putting together this record, we were trying to reflect what was being played throughout the 30 days of mourning, songs that were played on the radio, the songs that were sung by young people who came to Rabin Square, and not just for the rally." Subsequent takes were recorded, she said, because in some cases the

recordings from the rally were not up to snuff technically. In some cases, artists were so overcome by emotion that they were out of tune or were not at their best. While putting the record together, the producers were delighted by songs which were written after the assassination as tributes. In the end, they decided to stick with tried-and-true tunes, with a single

exception, "It Suddenly Fell Upon Her," dedicated to Leah Rabin and recorded by Arik Einstein. The cooperative effort evolved after producers at both Hed Artzi and NMC, the country's leading record companies, began putting together their ideas for a collection immediately after the assassination. They quickly decided that cooperation, not competition, was the most appropriate approach. In the end, *Shalom Chaver* brought together all of Israel's major labels. The proceeds are going to a Rabin memorial fund.

Pfeiffer vehicle gets a gift rap

NEW RELEASES
TIRZAH AGASSI

Dangerous Minds is a movie with two stars: Michelle Pfeiffer and its soundtrack (Hed Arzi). It opens with rapper Coolio's No. 1 single "Gangsta's Paradise" blasting as the credits roll over washed-out views of inner city poverty.

"As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death," he intones, backed by strident strings and a booming beat. "I'm 23 now, but will I live to see 24?"

His angry questions are intercut with samples of Stevie Wonder's "Pastime Paradise," a classic plea for unity among have-nots. The resulting musical dialogue (which has now been blaring over the airwaves nonstop for months) is bold.

So is the music video in which Coolio, with his electric dreadlocks, stands in for one of the film's young characters. He enters the movie's classroom set and raps about borros that most folks just don't want to hear about.

"There are no victims in this class!" shoots back Pfeiffer, who plays an idealistic teacher in both video and film.

"Gangsta's Paradise" is the soundtrack's star turn. But the other 11 songs also have plenty to say. And they say it straight up. Whether talking about being "just another young nigga" holding chains and swingin' things, or "providin' problems, like God gonna solve them," the bottom line is always about the



Michelle Pfeiffer shares a laugh with Coolio No. 1, the hip-hop artist whose single 'Gangsta's Paradise' tops the 'Dangerous Minds' soundtrack.

"RESPECT" that these young street poets demand. The soundtrack, scored by former rapper Turntable Masta, and Lisa Williams, a vital mix of hip-hop, pop and R&B. It is close enough to the ground to win praise

from rap critics who can't quite get used to the idea of high-toned Pfeiffer being a hip-hop partner. This is certainly parallel to the surprise of the movie's young special-education students when they find themselves hooked on the poetry of

Dylan Thomas, seduced by their previous exposure to "the other Dylan's" euphemistic lyricism about certain "Tombstone Man." Meanwhile, the first hit features a true street rap booked up to a lavish post-modern production that

grabs its grandeur from everything from the Bible to classical orchestration, to an inspirational melody that has middle-aged people wondering what on earth has happened with good ol' Stevie Wonder. By the way, tells his peers

clearly to overcome any vestigial resistance to rap and "grow young," catching on to the sound of today. Nonetheless, the album closes with "This Is The Life," a Wendy and Lisa song reminiscent of Joul Mitchell's refined insight.

Sisyphus dances on the fringe

DANCE REVIEW
DORA BOWDEN

Two of Israel's most gifted choreographers are Heda Oren and Rina Shaham, neither of whose work gets enough exposure. A sampling of their output was presented on January 13 at Habama, the fringe arts center in Jerusalem's Talpiot industrial zone.

The program did not fully show off their talents, but it did demonstrate the need to give Oren and Shaham more scope.

That was especially true in the first of Oren's three works, *Sisyphus 1, 2, 3*, in which the power to project meaning and feeling was strongly evident. Dancing by Vladimir and Mina Filk, both from Minsk, ingeniously suggested the myth of the Greek who was punished in Hades by having to roll a stone up a hill forever.

The sense of rolling stone was created by the relationship of the pair, sometimes violent to the point of ferocity in the lifts and throws.

In the second duet, the ballerina was very skillful when dancing en pointe. Rina Shaham's two works were obviously designed for student performance. One was a sweet little duet for two girls in pink, the other a more elaborate trio.

ROMANIAN choreographer Gigi Caciuleanu's *Acta*, premiered by the Bat-Dor Dance Company about a year ago, was repeated at the Bat-Dor Theater in Tel Aviv on January 9, making clear how much modern dance has to give in conveying ideas and as sheer entertainment. It had all the charms that ballet offers, but with a new vocabulary and novel idiom.

On the back wall of the stage, a huge clock showed the time was 12:25, and two young dancers came to frolic in prankish innocence. They were replaced by another couple, a little more self-conscious and emotionally stronger with the clock set at 7.

The hands moved to 3 and the couple that emerged was quarrelsome, but together until the clock showed it was midnight when another couple, perhaps wiser, took the stage.

This was modern dance - and the Bat-Dor Company - at its best.

Mussorgsky opera proves as fresh as today's headlines

The St. Petersburg's Kirov/Marinsky Theater's performance of *Khovanshchina* by Modest Mussorgsky was a sensation for several reasons. The first was the powerful music, which overwhelmed an incredibly bad, overly long libretto. Then, in Shostakovich's brilliant orchestration, he not only remained faithful to, but also actually supplemented Mussorgsky.

The third factor was the production in all of its aspects: direction; stage design; vocal achievements; and the brilliance of the orchestra. The direction was not tainted in any way by the eccentricities of other so-called modern directors, who often turn the opera into expressions of egomania. But Leonid Baraton's "historical" staging also showed that even with a "conventional" approach there can be exciting theater, convincing acting and immense drama.

He created continuity and logic in the face of five principal figures, who all collided in a labyrinth of conflicting ambitions and political and religious ideologies. Vocally, we were treated to the best of Russian tradition. The magnificent tenors were Konstantin Puzhnikov as the Scriverneff and as Prince Vasily Golitsin, and Yuri Marusin as Prince Andrei

Khovansky. Even more exciting were the low voices, baritone Nikolai Putilin as Shaktovity the boyar; bass Vladimir Ognovenko as Prince Ivan Khovansky; and bass/baritone Mikhail Kit as Dositay, the spiritual leader of the "Old Believers." Another voice and interpretation to remember was mezzo-soprano Olga Borodina as Maria.

All of the participants, even those in the smallest supporting roles, were excellently cast. Then there was the choir, featured in the mass scenes that are the indispensable component of almost all Russian operas. Each of these scenes was a feast for the ear and eye. All of the choral passages were built up slowly and gradually, creating mighty sonorities which nevertheless remained magnificently balanced with the full blast of the orchestra.

Finally, I must acknowledge the superb mastery of conductor Valery Gergiev, who in a few years has turned the orchestra of the Marinsky Theater into one of the world's finest. He was everywhere all the time; not a solo by a single instrument, nor a vocal phrase or choral passage seemed to have escaped his attention. There was an additional dimension which made this occasion so exciting: the incredible relevance

of *Khovanshchina*. Repeatedly the heroes commit themselves to save Russia, to deliver the people, to defend the country, praying for peace and stability. It could have come from today's headlines. Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, January 10.

TENOR Peter Schreier's performance of Schubert's *Swan Song* and Schumann's *Song Cycle* op. 39 was a model of consummate art. It was an art where nothing was taken for granted. Each phrase was given an effect for its own sake, but always in order to express a subtle shade of meaning hidden in the text, bared like a revelation. A rich spectrum of emotions and inner - never extroverted - drama was shaped with genuineness. Sometimes the unconventional tempi intensified a feeling inherent in the delicate, suggestive lyrics. The bottomless despair and yearning of Schubert's *Far Away* was emphasized by the relentless slowness, preparing a striking contrast with the immediately following, apparently carefree, *Forewell*. A "whole world of pain" was conveyed intensely in *The Atlas*.

After the dark hopelessness expressed in Schubert's concluding *The Double*, a reaction overheard in the audience was, "What remains to be said in words?" The exquisite delicateness of Schumann's songs was displayed with extreme poignancy. In *Moon Night* a mood of pure poetry was evoked. The uncanny, menacing atmosphere of *Dusk* was condensed spine-chillingly into the concluding "take care."

Walter Oihertz played the piano part with uncommon sensitivity for the music and for his partner. Jerusalem Theater, January 8. Ury Eppstein

A NEW piano, played by the young Israeli pianist Airam Reichert, was presented in an inauguration recital at the Bible Lands Museum. The sound of the Korean-made piano, slightly resembling the tone quality of a fortepiano, suits Beethoven's Sonata op. 109, and probably earlier works as well. Reichert performed it with appropriate energy, and also captures some of the concluding andante's lyricism. For more romantic works, such as those by Schubert, Liszt and Scriabin, a more reverberating

instrument would most likely have proved more compatible with their style. In Scriabin's Sonata No. 5 and Liszt's Legends No. 2, Reichert displayed impressive virtuosity, demonstrating his technical skills with formidable capacity.

However, the emphasis on the technical aspects of Schubert's Sonata in A minor missed the poetic significance of its melodic turns and proved that for the subtleties of this work a more advanced stage of maturity is still required. Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem, January 13. Ury Eppstein

IN one week, guest conductor Lev Markiz has managed to bring the Beersheba Sinfonietta up to a European-International standard. The Moscow-born violinist and conductor, active in the Netherlands since 1961, drew interpretive finesse and emotion from the Negev musicians, who responded to every gesture in Mozart's symphony No. 33. The Shostakovich/Borshai chamber symphony op. 83 was redolent, glossy and polished. Cellist Alban Gerhardt (Germany), 27, has won a number of international competitions recently, and for good reason. He brought charisma to the authentic

classical style of Haydn's concerto in C major and made short order of the passage work in Tchaikovsky's Rocco Variations. Beersheba Conservatory, January 13. Max Stern

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	YEHUDA POLIKER	THE LIFE IN YOU
#2	4	ELTON JOHN	LOVE SONGS
#3	3	MADONNA	SOMETHING TO REMEMBER
#4	5	FILM SOUND TRACK	DANGEROUS MINDS
#5	6	VARIOUS ARTISTS	NOW 32
#6	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	RABIN - GOODBYE FRIEND
#7	12	ARKADI DUCHIN	ARKADI DUCHIN
#8	9	FILM SOUND TRACK	PRISCILLA
#9	7	VANGELIS	VOICES
#10	RE	CASIS	MORNING GLORY
#11	14	SADE	BEST OF
#12	10	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	APPLES AND DATES
#13	11	RITA	THE GRAND LOVE
#14	RE	FRANK SINATRA	LIVE IN CONCERT
#15	RE	MARIAH CAREY	DAY DREAM

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

PHILISTINE, The Great Deception, by Ramon Bennett

Is the Israeli-PLO Peace Accord the beginning of the end of the Arab-Israeli conflict, or is it a prelude to an all-out assault on Israel by the Arab nations? This incredible, thoroughly documented expose gives a clear understanding of the Arab mind and Arab intentions.

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Omar Sharif fesses up

OMAR SHARIF, best remembered for his role in the 1965 film *Doctor Zhivago*, said he had an illegitimate son from a "five-minute" affair with an Italian journalist.

"The Italian journalist came to interview me about 25 years ago," Sharif said in an interview published Sunday in the Egyptian magazine *Rose el-Youssef*. "And it happened in five minutes."

Sharif, 63, said the woman whom he identified as Loka de Loka called him a year later with news of a baby boy. He has had little contact with him, but said he and his son resembled each other.

"Generally, I consider my son as the one whose mother I love... not from a woman I hardly knew and did not love," he told the magazine during a recent visit to Austria. He added that he only loved one woman, his former wife and Egyptian actress, Faten Hamama. They had one son, Tareq (AP).

Historical drama not for the faint of heart

ZINZANA

By In Dvir. Direction, Eli Cohen. Set, Eli Sinai. Costumes, Anat Meisner. Music, Efi Shoshani. Lighting, Judy Kuperman. Hebrew title, *Zinzana*. At the Meckle Hall, Habimah National Theater.

Yerubam _____ Gil Frank
Arieh _____ Micha Selekter
Ali _____ Uri Avrahami
Selig _____ Shimeon Lev-Ari

In Dvir's nightmarish play is impressive for its dramatic quality and the unflinching grimness of its approach. Even so, not a little of the powerful effect it has on audiences is due to Eli Sinai's marvelously macabre set and Eli Cohen's flawless direction. Thanks to them and the sinister visual and sound effects, it makes for an eventful evening of theater.

Let it be clear at the outset, however, that the theme, a ghoulish gallows tale of two IZL captives in the darkest days of the British Mandate, is not for the squeamish. The play describes the last days

of two underground fighters awaiting death-by-hanging inside a British jail. The scant action revolves around the reluctant relationship emerging between them as they both refuse to appeal for clemency.

The two principals, Yerubam and Arieh (Gil Frank and Micha Selekter), translate the well-choreographed direction into vivid body language within the narrow confines of their cell. Textwise, however, the over-the-top Selekter tends to swamp the more fragile Frank in an onslaught of overaged exuberance.

On the other hand, Uri Avrahami, an actor of unusual talent, plays Ali, the simple Arab warder, with rare restraint. A deep and disturbing study is given by Shimeon Lev-Ari as the tragicomic prison barber, an Auschwitz survivor.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music, Richard Rodgers. Lyrics, Oscar Hammerstein after a story by Lindsay and Crouse. Hebrew, Avi Koren. Direction, Menahem Golan. Music, Roni Weiss. Choreography, Chik Cahan. Set, Dor Ben-David. Choral work, Hedva Melzer. Hebrew title, *Zilka Hakustika*.

Maria _____ Hani Nachmias
Mother Superior _____ Dina Golan
Von Trapp _____ Sashi Keisbet
Max _____ Eli Gornstein
Elsa _____ Linor Shapiro

childhood memories and fear having them ruined by exposure to a tarnished Sabra version of a memorable musical, you should not hesitate to see this show.

Menahem Golan, with the ravishing Hani Nachmias in the lead role, offers a production that not only reproduces the sheer genius of the work in every scintillating detail, but also renews the joy of music and movement through a performance by a professional and highly talented cast.

It was with great relief and elation that this reviewer succumbed to a glittering evening of good, old-fashioned sentimentality, sugar-coated with naivete, sincerity, and honest schmaltz.

The execution, on the other hand, was highly sophisticated; it was artistically and technically advanced in every respect. Here's hoping that Golan has come back to fill the lacunae in grand musical productions that disappeared with the departure of the much-lamented Godek.

EVEN If you cherish delicious

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1996

'Arabs need to invest \$160b. in power plants within 15 years'

DUBAI (Reuters) - Arab countries would have to pump \$160 billion into power plants in the next 15 years to meet fast-growing demand, the World Energy Council said over the weekend.

Addressing a power conference, Vice Chairman Hisham Khatib said electricity production in Arab countries would have to grow by 46 gigawatts up to the year 2000, representing investment of around \$60b.

Another \$100b. would need to be spent on power generation in the first 10 years of the next century in adding a further 76 gigawatts to bring production up to 200 gigawatts.

"Investments in the electricity supply industry in the Arab region will amount to almost five percent of gross capital investments in the region during the next 15 years," he said.

Demand for electricity had in the past two decades been growing faster in the Arab world, and particularly the Gulf, than in any other region, Khatib said.

"Between 1980-1990 average annual world growth in demand for electricity was 3.5%, compared to 9.1% annually in the Arab region and 12.2% in the Gulf states."

Demand was expected to continue to rise sharply, as average annual consumption per capita in Arab countries - at 1,250 kilowatt hours - was lower than the world average of 2,200 kilowatt hours.

The availability of capital and cheap subsidized electricity supported this rapid growth and encouraged over-use, he said.

"In cut down on wastage, Arab countries 'badly need' to introduce demand management techniques to enhance savings and improve efficiency. But many of these methods relied on pricing, which is subsidized throughout the Arab world.

Many countries in the region have vowed to give the private sector a larger role in their economies.

But Khatib said the subsidized prices along with weak Arab capital markets meant government's dominant role in the industry was likely to change little in the next decade.

"Therefore the industry will continue to rely on the government for many years to come and will continue to suffer from the poor management and financial weaknesses inherent in government owned and run utilities."

Central bank survey: Growth to continue in '96

THE economy continued to expand in all its major industries during the fourth quarter, and is bound to continue its growth in the first quarter this year, according to the Bank of Israel's seasonal survey of companies' activities, published yesterday.

In all, the fastest growth was registered in the large industrial companies, most of whose added sales were attributed to increased exports.

Local sales remained generally unchanged.

All industrial branches reported continued growth, and nearly one in three industrial companies said they had increased

productivity.

The added output was mainly exported, and one in every two companies reported a rise in its exports, as opposed to one in five which reported a decline in their exports.

However, local sales, which until the fourth quarter had grown consistently for six consecutive quarters, was stemmed and remained unchanged in comparison with the third quarter.

The expansion of sales and production was accompanied with stable personnel payrolls, as well as inventories of finished

products and raw materials.

The most exceptional pace of growth was detected in the electronics' sector, where 68% of companies surveyed reported increased exports.

In the construction sector, 55% of the companies surveyed reported increased activity, both in finished structures and in construction starts, while 15% reported a decline in their business and the rest remained unchanged.

In the tourism industry, 44% of hotels reported expanded activities, in comparison with their performance over the same period the previous year.

Gov't reconsidering stance on patent laws due to EU, US pressure

THE government is reconsidering its stance on patent laws following concerns expressed by the European Union and the US.

"Research needs strong protection in intellectual property," EC delegation head Michael Ryan said in a statement yesterday. "A weakened patent law risks scaring off potential investors."

Ryan said a proposed amendment would "allow the explanation of an invention before the end of its patent protection," adding he hoped "reason would prevail."

His sentiments echoed those of US Ambassador Martin Indyk, who two weeks ago alluded to the problem before the annual meeting of the Manufacturers Association's electronics division.

The conflict centers around the 20-year limit for manufacturers' rights on patented pharmaceuticals. It has been common practice for local generic drug manufacturers to begin in-house research and patent applications well before patents expired.

A case brought before the Tel Aviv District Court last year

ruled that such research violated the rights of patent-holders. A reform in the patent law was then proposed by the Gahbai Committee.

"The Gahbai Committee is convinced the amendment is quite in accord with Israel's international obligations, including those under the free trade agreements, and that it reflects a fair balance between patent holders and generic manufacturers," committee member Allen Zysblat said. Nonetheless, "we have been reexamining our position in light of these comments and in light of [other] complaints."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Applicom has sold its holdings and marketing activity in off-the-shelf product Com-Nihilite to Sintec Technologies, plus 10-percent royalties on product Com-Info. Formula Systems owns 30% controlling interest in Sintec and through various agreements holds 53.5% of voting rights. Elitech Industries 77 owns 10.8%. Formula owns 42% of Applicom outstanding capital share and 51% of voting rights. Rachel Neiman

Software house Dvir yesterday announced the release of Q-Text 6.0 for Windows. The price of the software is \$350 (VAT not included) and upgrades begin at NIS 200. Rachel Neiman

Local companies to participate at Asian Aerospace exhibition: Sixteen local companies will participate in the Israeli pavilion at the Asian Aerospace exhibition in Singapore next month. The list includes CI Systems, El-Op, Electro-Optic Industries, Elbit Computers, Elitron Electronic Systems, Excalibur, IET, IAL, Opgal, Rafael-Elgal, Scopus Light, Sibir Microcomputers, TAAS, Tadiran, TAT, Plasson and Beit Shemesh Motors. Rachel Neiman

WORLD BRIEFS

British hotelier Forte bowed to shareholder pressure and said it would split the roles of chairman and chief executive. But share analysts echoed criticism from predator Granada, which has made a £3.8 billion bid for Forte, that the move was too little, too late. Reuter

The German government said the Post Office should take a stake in the privatization of Deutsche Postbank but should not be given control of its sister organization. The announcement could end months of bitter feuding between the Post Office and Postbank, sister agencies in the postal authority that were transformed into state-owned joint stock companies last year and are due to be privatized. Reuter

The sacking of Russia's farm minister after a disastrous grain harvest signals that Moscow is jittery over how it will feed millions in farflung regions, industry analysts said. Reuter

'Put main pipeline of natural gas plan in hands of private sector'

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE main pipeline of the natural gas project should be in the hands of the private sector, Energy Minister Gonen Segev said yesterday during a presentation of project plans to Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Seventy percent of the pipeline should be in the private sector, Segev said, while 30% should be in the hands of a government company - which would also own the "land corridors" for the pipeline.

The plan goes against the wishes of the Treasury, which disapproves of a combined private-public entity.

The plans were formulated in accordance with recommendations made by the World Bank, whose driving principle for the 20 to 25-year project is its commercial foundation and the strength the economy would gain from private sector participation.

According to the principles, a single company will not be allowed to participate in more than one aspect of the project - such as purchasing, transport, or distribution.

Government involvement will be limited to organizing and supervision.

This includes setting up procedures, laws, rules, regulations,

environmental and safety standards, etc. Levels of preparing tenders and selecting bidders, supervising construction and overall implementation, supervising prices and services and locating sources of supply.

The government will also ensure gas purchased for specific purposes is used as such.

Signature of gas purchasing contracts will be by end users such as the Israel Electric Corporation, the petrochemical industry and various private companies.

Gas transportation would be executed by a commercial company.

The pipeline route would use the same right of way as the existing oil pipelines.

Gas distribution would be granted through tender procedures.

Negotiations with Egyptian company ETGC concerning the purchase of natural gas are in advanced stages, Segev added.

Segev will today accompany the visiting Dutch prime minister and foreign minister during the first of a four-day official visit.

The official delegation will visit Elbit and IEC headquarters, and will sign a declaration of cooperation in the energy field.

Correction

Elron CEO Uzia Galil did not sell NetMnag shares last week, or at any other time since November 1995. Our report yesterday concerning this was erroneous, and we apologize to Mr. Galil for having previously misunderstood him.

Moriah Hotel chain signs franchise marketing agreement with Radisson

HAIM SHAPIRO

ISRAEL is on the verge of becoming a "boiling market" for tourism, with an explosion in the demand for hotel rooms once all the harders with neighboring countries are opened, according to Kurt Ritter, president and CEO of worldwide Radisson SAS Hotels.

Ritter was speaking at a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday to mark the signing of a franchise marketing agreement with the Moriah Hotel chain, whose hotels are to be known as Radisson Moriah hotels.

According to the agreement, Moriah has the sole franchise rights for Israel and Jordan.

Moriah general manager Amnon Madar said the Israeli chain is in contact with a number of Jordanian hotels, as well as some additional Israeli hotels.

There are currently Moriah hotels in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Tiberias, the Dead Sea, Eilat, and Zichron Ya'acov.

Ritter explained that the Radisson SAS chain has a policy of working with local people.

He said he and Amnon Mader, director of the Moriah chain, found each other in Berlin at the ITB, the world's largest tourism trade fair.

In comparison with the large American-based chains, Ritter said, Radisson SAS does not demand that all contracts be in English, that the hotel bear a specific name or that price levels be established in US dollars.

If, for example, the Moriah hotels fulfilled local fire-code regulations, there was no need for the chain to step in, he said.

"We don't come and tell them



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Moriah general manager Amnon Madar and worldwide Radisson SAS Hotels president and CEO Kurt Ritter unveil the new Radisson sign at the Moriah Hotel in the capital's Talbiyah neighborhood. (Sivai Parag)

you don't have enough salt in your soup," Ritter said.

Ritter added he felt that Radisson SAS had entered the Israeli market at the right time, when it was about to take off. If the company had waited for a few years, it would undoubtedly have been much more difficult, he said.

The Radisson SAS group represents an alliance between Radisson, a part of the Minneapolis-based Carlson Companies Inc., and SAS Hotels International, which represents the group in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

According to Irving Ash, senior director of development for

Carlson Hospitality Worldwide, the Carlson Companies has some 1,000 outlets - including hotels, restaurants, cruise ships, and travel agencies.

The company's reservation system is based in Omaha, Nebraska, with branch offices in Sydney, Dublin, and Mexico City.

MKs ask for report on how to fight excess wages in public jobs

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday asked head of the Treasury's wage division Yossi Kuchik to report back to it by April with suggestions for tightening sanctions against excess wages in the public sector.

The committee was discussing Kuchik's second annual report on public-sector wages, which found excessive and illegal payments in 52 percent of the more than 600 organizations examined.

Kuchik said that in particular, the local authorities and municipal corporations violate wage ceilings "systematically" and have been doing so for years. These violations have cost the state hundreds of millions of shekels, he said.

Ya'acov Agmon of the Local Authorities Union said that in some cases, these violations are simply due to ignorance or misunderstandings.

His organization, he said, will try to do a better job of offering guidance in the future.

Government companies are not problem-free either.

The Israel Electric Corporation, for instance, pays its senior officials some NIS 39,000 a month.

However, Kuchik said, excess wages in government companies are often due to large bonuses, which are technically legal.

Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) noted that when violations are occurring on as large a scale as Kuchik's report indicates, there is clearly a serious problem.

He therefore asked Kuchik to prepare recommendations on sanctions and report back to the committee in April.

State Comptroller Miriam Beo-Porat has already recommended prosecuting violators when possible, and Kuchik has been discussing this with Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair.

Kuchik said that next year's report will include a section on what measures were taken against this year's violators.

Saudis urged to accept lower spending

DUBAI (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah yesterday urged his countrymen, once used to lavish state benefits, to accept cuts in government spending, the official Saudi news agency SPA reported.

It said the crown prince "expressed his satisfaction over readiness shown by ministers to comply with the principle of rationalization of government expenditure when carrying out the new budget."

"He urged the citizens to accept measures designed for the continual reinforcement of the national economy," the SPA report said.

The crown prince made the remarks while heading a weekly cabinet meeting, SPA said.

Klog Fahd handed over the running of affairs of state to the crown prince earlier this month while he recovers from a stroke he suffered in November.

The monarch told Saudis last

year that uncharacteristic price rises for basic services such as water and electricity, part of economic restructuring after years of huge budget deficits, were temporary.

Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf states have traditionally delivered generous benefits to their citizens.

But the kingdom's economy has been strapped for cash in recent years because of soft oil prices and high Gulf war costs.

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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (15.1.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	9 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	Rep. Rate
U.S. dollar (200,000)	4.800	4.825	4.850	4.875	3.544
U.S. dollar (100,000)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	3.170
U.S. dollar (50,000)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	2.572
U.S. dollar (20,000)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	2.000
U.S. dollar (10,000)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	1.500
U.S. dollar (5,000)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	1.000
U.S. dollar (2,000)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.500
U.S. dollar (1,000)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.250
U.S. dollar (500)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.125
U.S. dollar (200)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.062
U.S. dollar (100)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.031
U.S. dollar (50)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.016
U.S. dollar (20)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.008
U.S. dollar (10)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.004
U.S. dollar (5)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.002
U.S. dollar (2)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.001
U.S. dollar (1)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.5)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.2)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.1)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.05)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.02)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.01)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.005)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.002)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
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U.S. dollar (0.000000000000000005)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.000000000000000002)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.000000000000000001)	4.800	4.800	4.800	4.800	0.000
U.S. dollar (0.00000000000000					

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark exchange rates against NIS.

INFLATION STOCK MARKET table showing New York market indexes and NYSE stock market indexes.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and various regional indices.

INFLATION MONEY MARKET table showing Dollar crossrates and Libor rates.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. section with contact information.

INFLATION COMMODITIES AND METALS table showing US commodities and London commodities.

Spot market metals (US) and New York metal futures tables.

Currency cross rates table showing exchange rates for Mark, Sterling, Yen, Sfr, and Ffr.

TEL AVIV STOCKS table with multiple columns for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and Parallel List, including company names and prices.

Indexes rise to snap six days of losses

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET ROBERT DANIEL. Two-Sided Index +0.33%, Maof Index +0.39%.

INDEXES rose yesterday as investors awaited a report of the Consumer Price Index and to see if recent weakness on the US stock markets would continue.

FTSE-100 Index closes up 5.4 points

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Share prices closed mixed but with a marginally firmer edge in the blue chip stocks, and a slightly stronger Wall Street.

Dow posts losses, hurt by fresh technology selling

NEW YORK (Reuters) Wall Street stocks posted double-digit losses yesterday as worries over fourth-quarter earnings again hit hard at technology shares.

Currency cross rates table showing exchange rates for Mark, Sterling, Yen, Sfr, and Ffr.

JANUARY 16, 1996

FS

FS

pipeline plan in te sector

MARKETS

Cavs down Suns

PHOENIX (AP) - Dan Majerle didn't want to call it revenge. The smile on his face indicated otherwise.

Majerle scored 20 points in his first game against his former team, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers past the Phoenix Suns 89-74 Sunday night.

"I've been thinking about this game for a long time," said Majerle, who was dealt to Cleveland in preseason after seven seasons with the Suns. "We needed this win and I'm glad we got it. Now maybe I can put this whole thing behind me."

Chris Mills and Terrell Brandon added 18 points apiece for the Cavaliers, the NBA's top defensive team which limited its 27th opponent this season to under 100 points.

Phoenix, 0-9 this season when held under 100 points, scored its fewest points since a franchise-low 68 at Kansas City on March 8, 1981.

The injury-plagued Suns, who dressed the league-minimum eight players for the fourth straight game, made only 28 of 74 field goals, including 11 of 37 in the first half.

It was their seventh loss in the last 10 games overall and fifth in a row at home.

"You have to make baskets in this game and we couldn't hit anything," said Phoenix coach Paul Westphal. "Look at our stat sheet. You're not going to beat a college team shooting like that."

The Suns had hit 11 field goals in the first half of a home game, matching a club low originally set on January 26, 1971, against Buffalo.

"Phoenix was playing with a lot of emotion and enthusiasm, but they just couldn't make their shots. We know what that's like," Cleveland coach Mike Fratello said. "Majerle was just outstanding for us tonight. He really stepped up and kept his emotions in check."

Majerle entered the game with 5:03 remaining in the first quarter and received a one-minute standing ovation from the sellout crowd at America West Arena.

Majerle, a first-round draft pick of the Suns in 1988, was traded to Cleveland on October 7 for John "Hot Rod" Williams, who sat out his fourth consecutive game with a nerve irritation in his right leg.

Majerle had 13 points by halftime, leading Cleveland to a 45-30 lead. The Suns scored 11 sec-

ond-period points.

Phoenix, trailing 62-50 after the third quarter, opened the fourth period with a 7-0 run capped by Wesley Person's 3-point goal with 10:21 remaining.

But Majerle scored on a drive with 9:37 left, was fouled and completed the three-point play to put the Cavaliers up 65-57.

Bobby Phillips scored five points and Danny Ferry four as Cleveland built its lead back up to 79-65 with 1:43 to play. Phoenix got no closer than nine points from there.

Rookie Michael Finley paced Phoenix with 20 points while Wesley Person had 12.

Elliott Perry, who had a career-high 35 points in Friday night's home game against Dallas, was held to seven points by Cleveland and made just three of his 11 field goals.

The Suns are off to their slowest start since 1987-88 when they were also 9-10 at home. At this stage last season, Phoenix was 26-7 overall and 15-1 at home.

Ferry finished with 13 points and Phillips 12. The win was Cleveland's 19th in the past 27 games after starting off the season with seven straight losses.

Phillips' 3-point goal 8:34 before halftime put the Cavaliers ahead to stay at 24-21.

SUNDAY'S NBA RESULT: Cleveland 89, Phoenix 74 Only game scheduled

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	27	8	.771	-
New York	22	14	.612	4.5
Washington	18	17	.514	8
Miami	18	18	.471	10.5
Boston	14	21	.400	15
New Jersey	13	22	.369	15.5
Philadelphia	7	28	.250	21

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	30	8	.789	-
Indiana	21	13	.617	9.5
Cleveland	19	15	.559	11.5
Detroit	18	15	.546	12
Atlanta	17	17	.500	13.5
Charlotte	17	18	.486	14
Milwaukee	12	22	.353	18.5
Toronto	10	25	.286	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Antonio	24	9	.727	-
Houston	25	11	.694	1.5
Utah	22	12	.647	2.5
Denver	18	20	.474	6.5
Dallas	10	28	.264	14.5
Minnesota	8	26	.235	16.5
Vancouver	7	29	.194	19.5

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	24	10	.706	-
Sacramento	20	12	.625	3
Portland	17	17	.500	6
Golden State	18	18	.500	6
Phoenix	14	19	.424	9.5
L.A. Clippers	15	21	.416	10

Live NBA games coming soon to a TV near you

FROM this Sunday until the playoffs in April, local basketball fans can expect a feast of live NBA matches on cable television.

Aviv Giladi Productions Ltd., producers of the Dudu Topaz Show and Zehn Zeh, announced yesterday it has acquired the rights to broadcast NBA basketball matches live - as well as the popular American magazine programs "Inside Stuff" and "NBA Action".

These offer fascinating glimpses into the lives of the players off the court.

Cable Channel 3 and the Sports Channel, Channel 5, will coordinate the broadcasts between them.

NBA Israel representative Arik Henning hailed the development as "very important".

"This is the first time in Israel that private enterprise is sponsoring sports broadcasts," he said. Until now, state television companies have relied on government funding to broadcast live sport events.

Alan Roberts

NBA leaders

(through January 14)

Player	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
Jordan, Chi	33	27	10	1	1
Malone, Col	34	21	24	0	2
Robinson, S.A.	35	29	22	0	2
Hardaway, Det	38	28	27	0	2
Cleaver, Hou	39	20	22	0	2
C. Robinson, Port	35	27	17	0	2
Cassidy, L.A.	28	21	18	0	2
Barley, Phi	30	22	15	0	2
Ellis, S.A.	33	20	15	0	2
Pick, Chi	33	20	13	0	2
Johnson, Clea	35	25	12	0	2
Richmond, Sac	32	23	13	0	2
Pippen, Chi	33	27	10	0	2
Johnson, Clea	35	25	12	0	2
Johnson, Clea	35	25	12	0	2
Johnson, Clea	35	25	12	0	2
Johnson, Clea	35	25	12	0	2

Malcolm's bias allegations infuriate cricket board

LONDON (Reuters) - Devon Malcolm has been strongly criticized for raising the issue of color in his dispute with England cricket boss Ray Illingworth.

Derbyshire's Jamaican-born fast bowler seems certain to be fined for breach of contract after a public outburst following his miserable tour of South Africa.

"I have to ask - would this have happened if I had been a white bowler?" Malcolm was quoted as saying in yesterday's Daily Express while commenting on his treatment by England in South Africa.

"That is an offensive remark," countered Test and County Cricket Board TCCB spokesman Richard Little. "We always pick the best possible players and take no account of any other element."

Malcolm, who played in only two Tests, has received plenty of sympathy for the way he was apparently handled by Illingworth and coach Peter Lever from the early days of England's campaign.

They tried to make him change his action and, when that failed, seemingly virtually ignored him in the nets.

Malcolm says his confidence was destroyed by Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, and says he would have packed his bags and gone home if his team-mates had not dissuaded him.

According to the article, Malcolm claims Illingworth swore at him and ordered him to leave the nets on Christmas Day, the eve of



SOUR PUSS - Devon Malcolm glumly walks from the field after a disappointing performance in the second Test in South Africa last month.

the fourth Test, because he was distracting Darren Gough.

But by hinting at discrimination, the 32-year-old risks losing support, especially after confirming that his color was never men-

tioned on tour.

Malcolm is due to continue his attack against Illingworth and the tour management today.

But he has already said enough to guarantee himself a hefty fine.

UMass stays atop survey

NEW YORK (AP) - Massachusetts remained the No. 1 team in the college basketball poll for the fourth straight week today, while there were multiple changes at the bottom of the Top 25.

The Minutemen (14-0) received 62 of the 64 first-place votes and 1,598 points from the national media panel, with Kentucky (13-1) holding the runner-up spot for the fourth straight week, this time with 1,519 points.

Cincinnati (11-0) and Kansas (12-1) swapped third and fourth with the Bearcats receiving a first-place vote. Connecticut (14-1) received the other No. 1 vote and moved up one spot to fifth.

Wake Forest, which jumped two spots, Villanova, Georgetown, Memphis and North Carolina rounded out the Top Ten. Georgetown, which lost to Pittsburgh during the week, fell three places in the only other change among that group.

Virginia Tech jumped from 15th to lead the Second Ten and was followed by Syracuse, UCLA, Penn State, Utah, Iowa, Purdue, Arizona, Clemson and Michigan. The last five spots went to Mississippi State, Georgia, Auburn, Boston College and Texas Tech.

The last three teams are new to the poll this week. Boston College (11-3) was ranked 24th two weeks ago before falling out in the last voting after losing to Villanova.

It's been a lot longer between poll appearances for the other two.

Auburn (14-3), which comes in at No. 23 off the upset of then-No. 19 Georgia, was last ranked in 1987-88, and that was for one week in the middle of the season at No. 19.

Texas Tech (12-1), whose only loss was to Eastern Michigan and whose biggest win was over Oklahoma, was last ranked in the final poll of the 1984-85 season.

SCOREBOARD

Due to Martin Luther King Day in the US several NBA and NHL games were played yesterday afternoon.

YESTERDAY'S NBA RESULTS:
Early results:
Milwaukee 96, New York 92
Atlanta 96, Detroit 88
Chicago 116, Washington 109 (Michael Jordan scored 46)

YESTERDAY'S NHL RESULTS:
Early results:
NY Islanders 3, Tampa Bay 2
Vancouver 6, Boston 0

GUESS WHO?

Who holds the NBA playoff record for more three-point shots made in a game?
Larry Bird
Will Chamberlain
Dominique Wilkins
Dan Majerle
Answer tomorrow.

Answer to yesterday's "Guess Who":
The last NFL Championship game that didn't involve the Cowboys or 49ers was in 1991, when the Redskins defeated the Lions 41-10 to win the NFC title.

Smashnova, Ran score solid wins at Australian Open

ORI LEWIS

ISRAELI two representatives at the Australian Open both scored impressive first-round wins on the opening day of competition in Melbourne yesterday.

Anna Smashnova caused the first and only upset on Day 1 of the opening Grand Slam event of the year when she ousted 12th-seeded Natasha Zvereva 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, in an exciting baseline battle which lasted two and a half hours.

Eyal Ran, Israel's No. 1 men's player, had an easier time in overcoming fellow-qualifier Andre Cherkasov of Russia 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

Ran, 24, managed an almost error-free performance on an outside court against the far more experienced Cherkasov, 26, who was placed as high as 13 in the ATP Rankings in 1991, but dropped to his current 183 due to injury.

Ran has a much tougher opponent in his next match - Australian Mark Philippoussis.

The tall hard-hitting Australian, ranked No. 30 in the world, is one of his country's bright hopes for the future, and he will have a partisan crowd on his side when he faces Ran, ranked 160, on Thursday.

Smashnova used all her fighting spirit to overcome Zvereva, the world No. 14 and No. 1 doubles player in a thrilling match on

one of the main show courts.

Smashnova, ranked No. 57, played her tried and tested baseline game and managed to unsettle Zvereva, whose more attacking style of play was nevertheless not powerful enough to finish off the match quickly.

The diminutive Israeli rushed through the first set and then had chances to finish off the match in the second before Zvereva moved up a gear and began attacking the net.

The final set turned into a seesaw battle. From 3-3, there were five consecutive breaks of serve as neither player was able to pull clear.

Smashnova and Zvereva, both born in Minsk, used their strongest weapons to thwart each other's efforts to win their own service game.

Zvereva rushed up to net to finish off the point quickly on the volley, while the Israeli bided her time at the back of the court and more often than not came up with a winning pass.

Unlike Ran, Smashnova has a good chance of advancing even further in the tournament, as her next opponent is the 28-year-old American Tami Whitlinger Jones.

(For more news from the Australian Open, see the World of Sports supplement)

Australian Open on TV: A taste of summertime

SPORTSWATCH
ORI LEWIS

ITS time to adjust the clocks again. No, it's not due to an Interior Ministry decree, but because its summertime in Australia and that means lots of very-early-morning excitement in front of the little box.

While temperatures soar at Flinders Park as summer reaches its peak Down Under, we can wrap up in a nice warm blanket with a cup of tea and try to simulate the heat as outside temperatures drop to only a few degrees above freezing.

The first day of action in Melbourne yesterday for me only began when the screeches of a little boy in the next room reminded me that it was time to turn on the action and tune in to Prime Sport.

But while taking the little one to his play group, I promised the nipper that from now on I will wake up without his help and try not to disturb him as I applaud

the fine tennis of Sampras and Seles.

The height of the action yesterday was brought very close to home when we saw live coverage of our own Anna Smashnova's excellent upset victory over 12th-seeded Natasha Zvereva in a thrilling match.

Now we will have to wait and see how first-round winner Eyal Ran fares against one of the local hopefuls, Mark Philippoussis, in a second-round match which is also almost certain to be given live coverage.

While the action during the next 12 days will keep me nailed to my seat in front of the set, I'm already making plans for the last two days of the tournament - the men's and women's finals.

If last year is anything to go by, neither Prime or Eurosport (who are also covering the first Grand Slam event of the year live) will be showing the singles finals live.

They usually do not go out of their way to inform us of this, but in previous years they didn't have the rights to live coverage and forced those of us who wanted to have a meaningful few hours in front of the television to block out all news reports from the finals until we had seen the delayed action.

I tried my best last year, but was thwarted by Prime themselves, who apparently went out of their way to ruin my enjoyment when a careless technician switched the tapes. We saw the

men's wimmer's trophy being presented to Andre Agassi before we were allowed to watch the last third of the match.

I hope that technician was subjected to some traditional Chinese torture, Hong Kong style, and he won't repeat his mistake again this year.

THERE will be only a short respite after the end of the Open for me. At least, before I get the youngster to sit up with me during more civilized morning hours and begin teaching him the art of keeping a straight bat.

When the cricket World Cup begins on the Indian subcontinent on February 14, everything else will take a back seat as Prime again do the honors with what they are already promising will be total live action all the way through to and including the final on March 17.

CLASSIFIEDS

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PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT.
Single Weekday - NIS 89.45 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 8.94
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DEADLINE OFFICES:

Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 8 p.m. on Thursday.
Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.

DWELLINGS

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Meshulam men remanded for conspiracy

'Fringe group' allegedly had hit list of public officials

RAINE MARCUS

SIX followers of jailed self-styled rabbi Uzi Meshulam were remanded by Kfar Sava Magistrate's Court yesterday on suspicion of conspiring to harm public figures and to damage government property.

Yosef Aharon, Avner Dahari, Haim Shabi, Yosef Yehuda, Menahem Shrama, and Avimelech Tsubara were arrested by Sharon police early Sunday at their Petah Tikva homes. Bullets, bullet-proof vests, allegedly seditious material, and a small quantity of drugs were found at some of the homes.

Following their arrests, Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said that "fringe elements" of Meshulam's sect have a "hit list" that includes the prime minister, the internal security minister, the state comptroller, and others. Meshulam is serving an eight-year sentence for crimes committed during a two-month siege at his Yehud home.

Police have known since Meshulam's arrest in May 1994 that some of his followers are a danger to the public, and are suspected of sabotaging the Petah Tikva phone exchange a year ago. Police were supposed to mount surveillance operations on such "lunatic fringe" elements and have

continually received tip-offs that members are dangerous.

During yesterday's hearing, the lawyer for five of the suspects, Tsadok Hugi, denied all allegations. He claimed that the sixth suspect, Tsubara, who was remanded for five days, is an undercover police agent, hired by police to tape other Meshulam supporters. The police denied this.

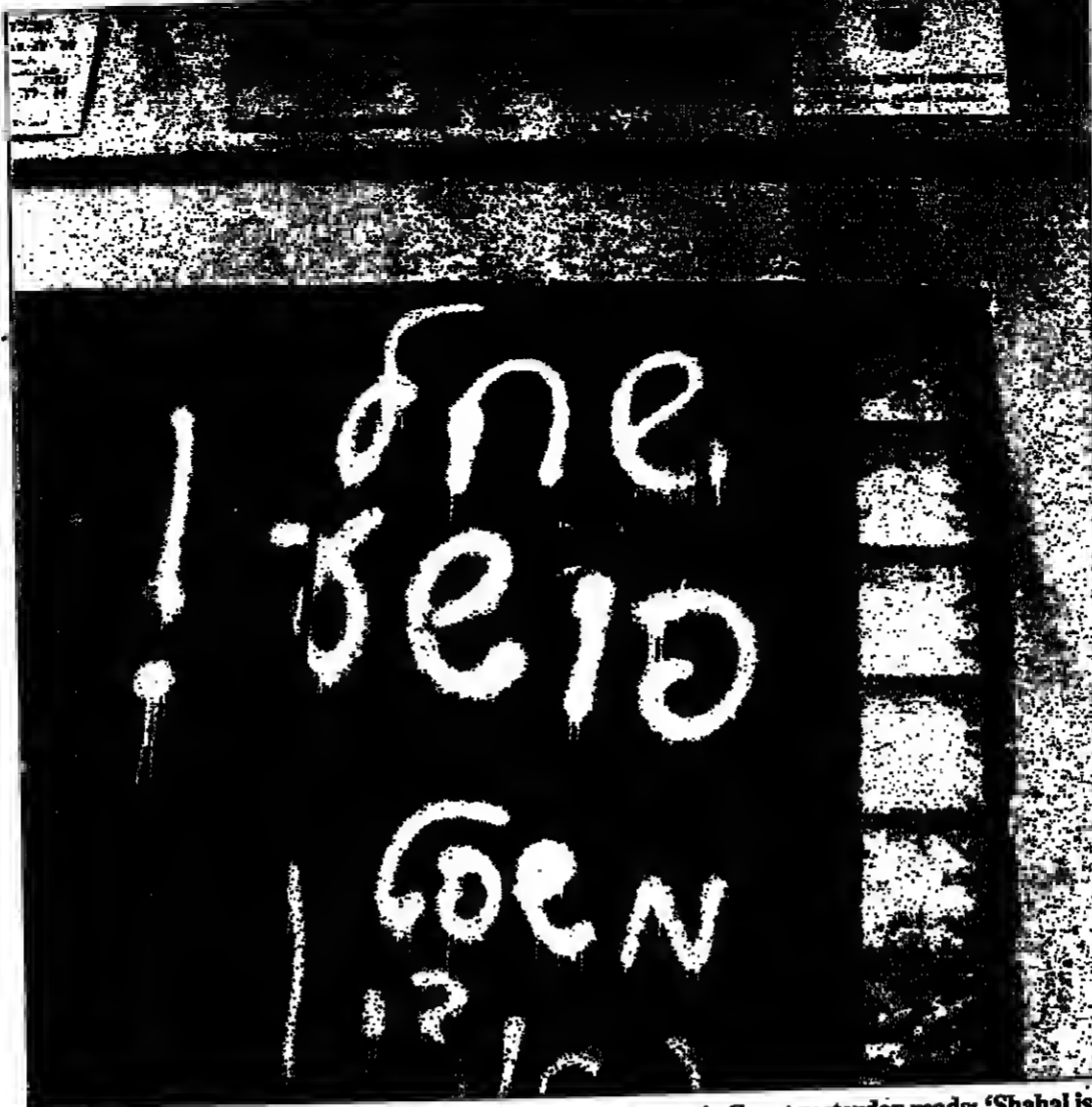
Outside the court, where such remarks are subject to libel law, Hugi refused to repeat his claim.

"IDF bullets and bullet-proof vests found at some of their homes were old and left over from army reserve duty," Hugi told the court.

The police had asked for the maximum 15-day remand for all six suspects, but Judge Yehuda Farago remanded Hugi's clients for eight.

The courtroom was heavily guarded by border policemen, detectives, and riot police and only a few of Meshulam's followers were allowed to enter.

Hugi also said that only Yehuda and Shabi are followers of Meshulam, and that the other suspects "simply identified with Meshulam's campaign to investigate the disappearance of Yeminithe children in the 1950s."



This graffiti found on the doors of the Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday reads: 'Shahal is a criminal!' and 'Nazi trial!' Police blame followers of Uzi Meshulam for the defacement. (Hannoch Grizicky/Israel Sun)

H. Amir, Adani appeal remands

RAINE MARCUS

THE lawyers of Dror Adani and Haggai Amir, remanded on Sunday until end of legal proceedings by Tel Aviv District Court, appealed the remand to the Supreme Court yesterday.

Amir and Adani are charged with conspiracy to murder Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinians, and illegal possession of weapons and ammunition. They will be tried before a panel of three judges due to the "severity of the offenses," the court ruled last week.

In his appeal, Amir's lawyer Moshe Meroz argued that District Court Judge Menahem Ilan had been mistaken in remanding his client until after trial, since Amir was not an accomplice in Rabin's murder, and was only informed by his brother Yigal of his previous attempts to kill him. "He also tried to prevent him from doing such a deed," read the appeal.

"Yigal Amir, Dror Adani, and Margalit Bar Shefi - all witnesses in the case - testified that Yigal did not share his plans with anyone in advance, and when he did mention them afterwards, the petitioner did not take them seriously," read the appeal.

While at one stage Haggai Amir did admit that he knew of his brother's plot, Meroz argued that this confession was extracted after extreme pressure by investigators.

Meroz also denied that his client plotted to harm Palestinians and their property.

"Therefore he cannot be considered a danger to the public," said Meroz.

Regarding Dror Adani, lawyer Zion Amir said that a suitable alternative to remand should be applied and that his client does not present a danger to the public, as claimed by the prosecution.

Amir said that his client denies all conspiracy charges and that police and the GSS have no substantial evidence to prove such allegations.

Meroz also said that evidence given by others arrested in the case does not suggest that Adani had any direct connection with Yigal Amir.

Meanwhile, Yigal Amir's lawyers, Mordechai Ofri and Jonathan Goldberg, filed a petition in Tel Aviv District Court asking that the plea hearing of their client be postponed for three months "or until the Shamgar Commission publishes its findings." The court will hear the petition tomorrow.

Cattle breeders call for stop to rustling

DAVID RUDGE

THE Cattle Breeders Association yesterday called for tougher security measures against rustlers, after a man guarding cattle near Kibbutz Beit Keshet came under fire early yesterday.

Police said shots were fired and a stun grenade was thrown at the guard after he spotted suspicious movement near the herd.

He was unhurt, but his jeep was hit.

A large force of police arrived and searched for the attackers. The police are taking a very grave view of the incident, especially because of the shooting, and said they would do their utmost to catch the perpetrators.

The cattle breeders charged that the police are not doing enough to stop the theft of cattle.

The association said hundreds of cattle had been stolen in the past year, especially from grazing areas near the Green Line, causing millions of shekels of losses.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, decrease in temperatures, rain in north and center.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High
Amsterdam	10-12	14-16
Berlin	8-10	12-14
Brussels	9-11	13-15
Frankfurt	10-12	14-16
London	11-13	15-17
Madrid	12-14	16-18
Munich	10-12	14-16
Paris	11-13	15-17
Rome	13-15	17-19
Tel Aviv	18-20	22-24
Toronto	5-7	9-11

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, jack of hearts, king of diamonds, and 10 of clubs.

New indictment in media bugging case

RAINE MARCUS

AN indictment against a private investigator, arrested last April in the media wiretapping case, will be presented this morning in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. Micha Rotem, 42, is to be charged on some 10 counts of bugging the phones and faxes of companies, a broker, and others.

According to the District Attorney's office, Rotem worked with private investigators Rafi Friedan and Ya'acov Tsur (the latter a state witness in the wiretapping case) and helped them in wiretapping commissioned by various parties. Tsur is expected to testify against Rotem, a former police officer.

He was first arrested last March for his alleged involvement in tapping Elco chairman Gershon Zelkin's phones and fax. He was later arrested in April with Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrodi and others, before being released on bail.

The indictment includes a charge of tapping the phone of Elco's rival, Nisko. The two companies competed for an IEC tender.

Rotem said yesterday that "I have no idea who most of these people are who I have been told appear on the charge sheet. I have never heard of them."

Knesset panel sets rules for GSS wiretaps

A joint Knesset committee yesterday approved rules for wiretapping by the General Security Service, including when it is permissible, who must okay it, and when material must be destroyed. This is the first time such rules have required Knesset approval, and the committee made a number of changes in existing procedure to enable closer supervision by the Prime Minister's Office.

In the coming weeks, the committee will discuss what use can be made of evidence of a crime uncovered during a wiretap authorized because of a different suspected offense.

Evelyn Gordon

Bomb threat, sticker target Peres

BATSHEVA TSUR and MICHAL YUDELMAN

POLICE sappers rushed to Prime Minister Shimon Peres's residence in Jerusalem's Beit Hakerem neighborhood close to midnight on Sunday after an anonymous caller said a bomb would be detonated there within three minutes.

Aided by specially trained dogs, the police searched the building and the surroundings for more than an hour but nothing suspicious was found, Israel Radio reported.

Peres and his wife, Sonya, were at home watching TV at the time.

The caller, who reached the police emergency line, was reportedly a man with a native Hebrew accent.

Meanwhile, police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz has ordered an investigation into the sources and distribution of a new sticker: "Shalom Haver 2" (Goodbye Friend 2).

The sticker is made out in the same form and print as the original sticker with the two words coined by President Bill Clinton which became the most prevalent slogan after prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination.

The police probe was requested by Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, who yesterday came across what he called "the dreadful, shocking sticker."

In an angry letter to Hefetz, Peretz said "in these days, before we have overcome the shock over terrible deeds deriving from wild incitement, I happened to come across a chilling sticker. Even if the explicit name does not appear on it, the threat against Peres is obvious."

Peretz urged Hefetz to investigate "everyone" involved in the severe incitement.

Marathon debate leads up to vote tonight on Oslo 2 implementation

LIAT COLLINS

DISCUSSION of the bill on the implementation of Oslo 2 continued yesterday in a marathon Knesset session, which should culminate in the votes on the second and third readings tonight. According to opposition coordinator MK Michael Eitan (Likud), 40 opposition MKs will attack the government's policy for 12 hours non-stop in the plenum today.

Last week, the opposition threatened to delay the bill's passage, exploiting the fact that the government failed to submit it on time and is rushing it through the Knesset.

The coalition needs to ensure the law passes and comes into effect before the Palestinian Authority elections this Saturday. One of the clauses is necessary to

enable voting in east Jerusalem post offices by local Arab residents.

After several acrimonious meetings last week, the Knesset House Committee, chaired by Elie Goldschmidt (Labor), reached a compromise whereby the Likud would not use a no-confidence motion as a delaying tactic - as it did over the first reading - but 17 hours of plenum time would be allotted for the opposition to present its reservations.

The time of the final vote was also agreed upon, and Goldschmidt reminded the nearly empty plenum of it in his speech: "No matter what happens, at 22:00

[tonight] the vote will be held."

Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss criticized the government for its poor handling of the bill. "I'm taking the opportunity to ask the government to avoid this sort of malfunction in the future. Submit bills on time."

Likud MKs used the plenum time to complain that the elections threaten the status of Jerusalem.

One of them, Michael Eitan, also criticized the name of the law, which refers to the implementation of the interim agreement on the "West Bank and Gaza Strip" rather than Judea and Samaria.

Labor MKs accused the opposition of wanting to return to Gaza.

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